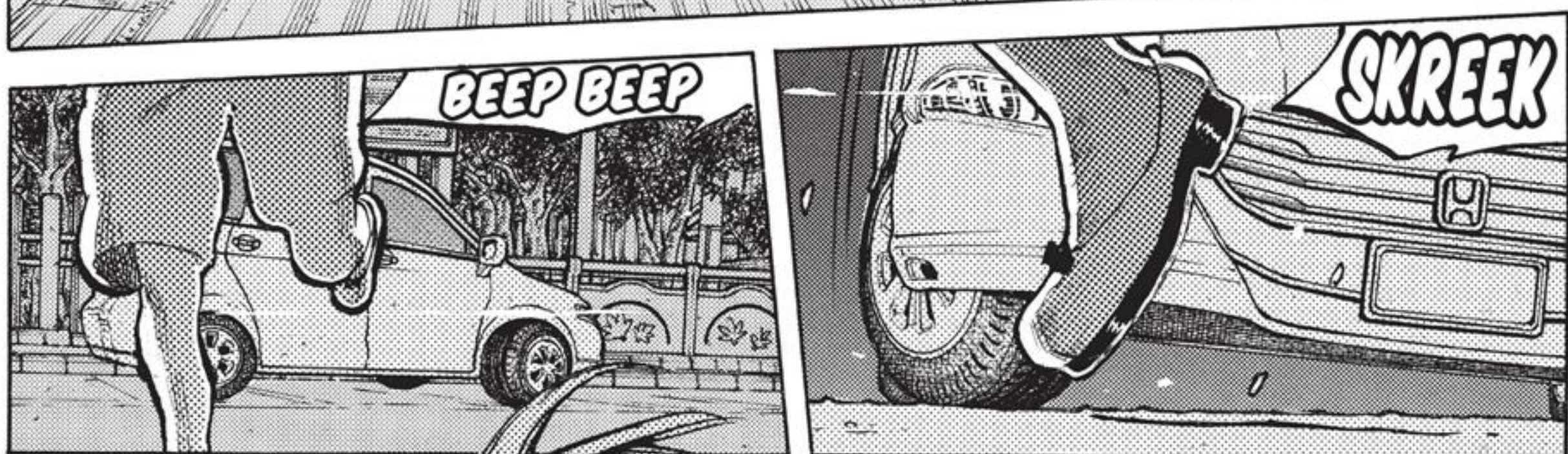
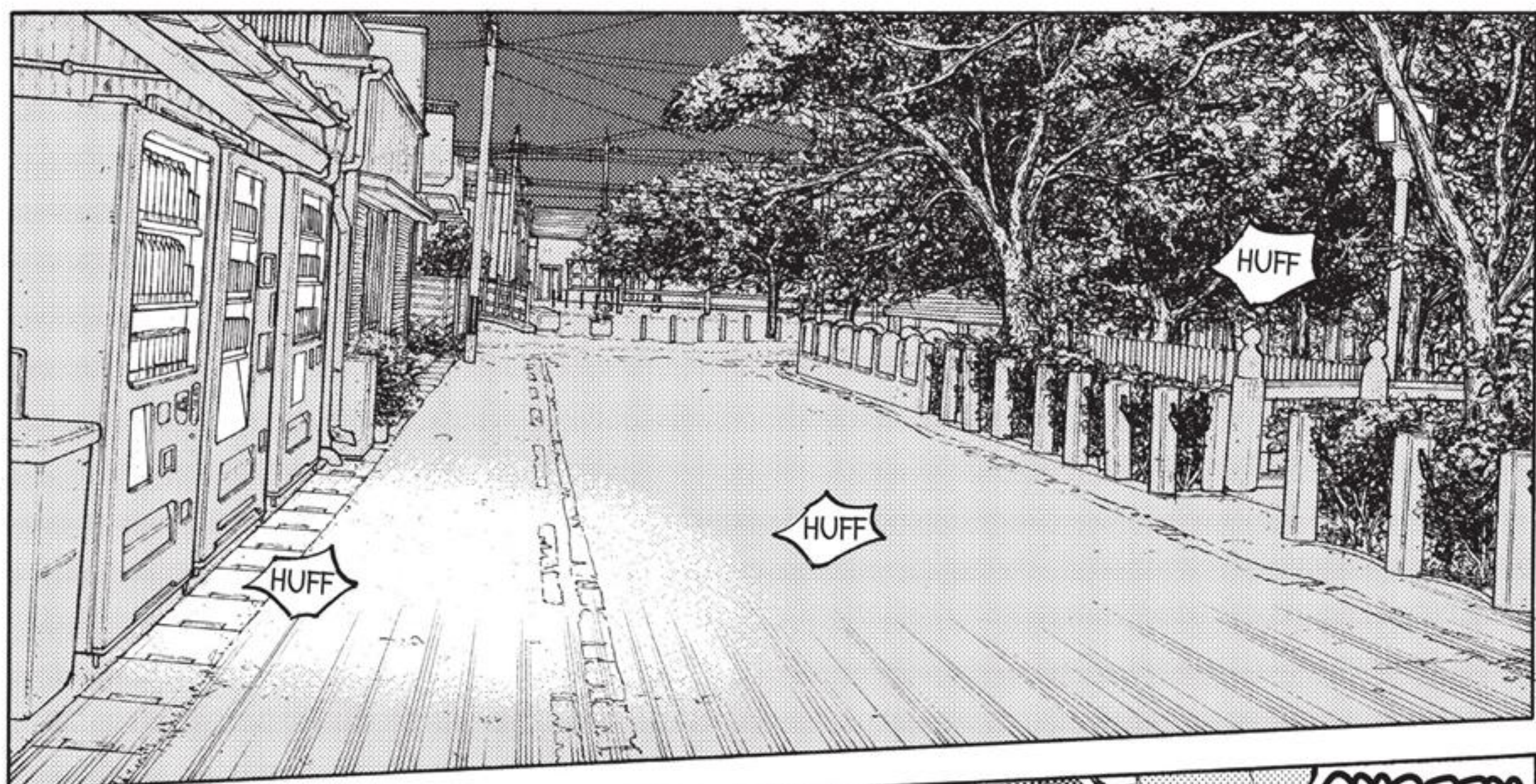
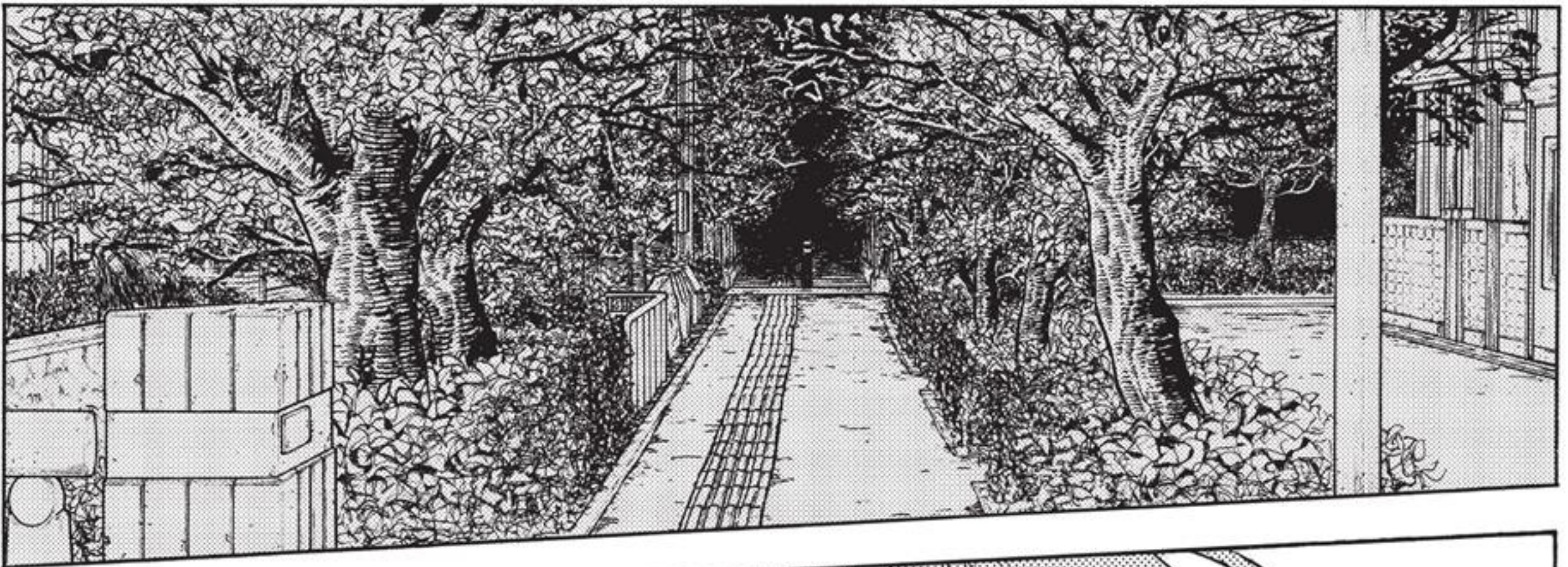
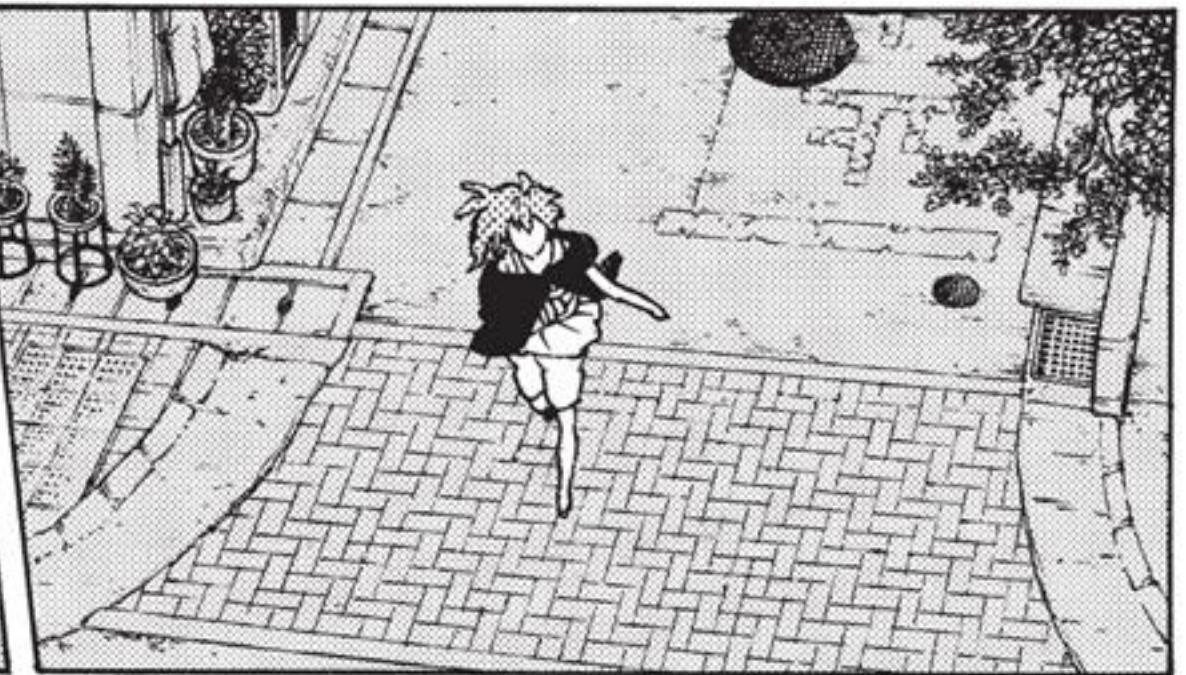
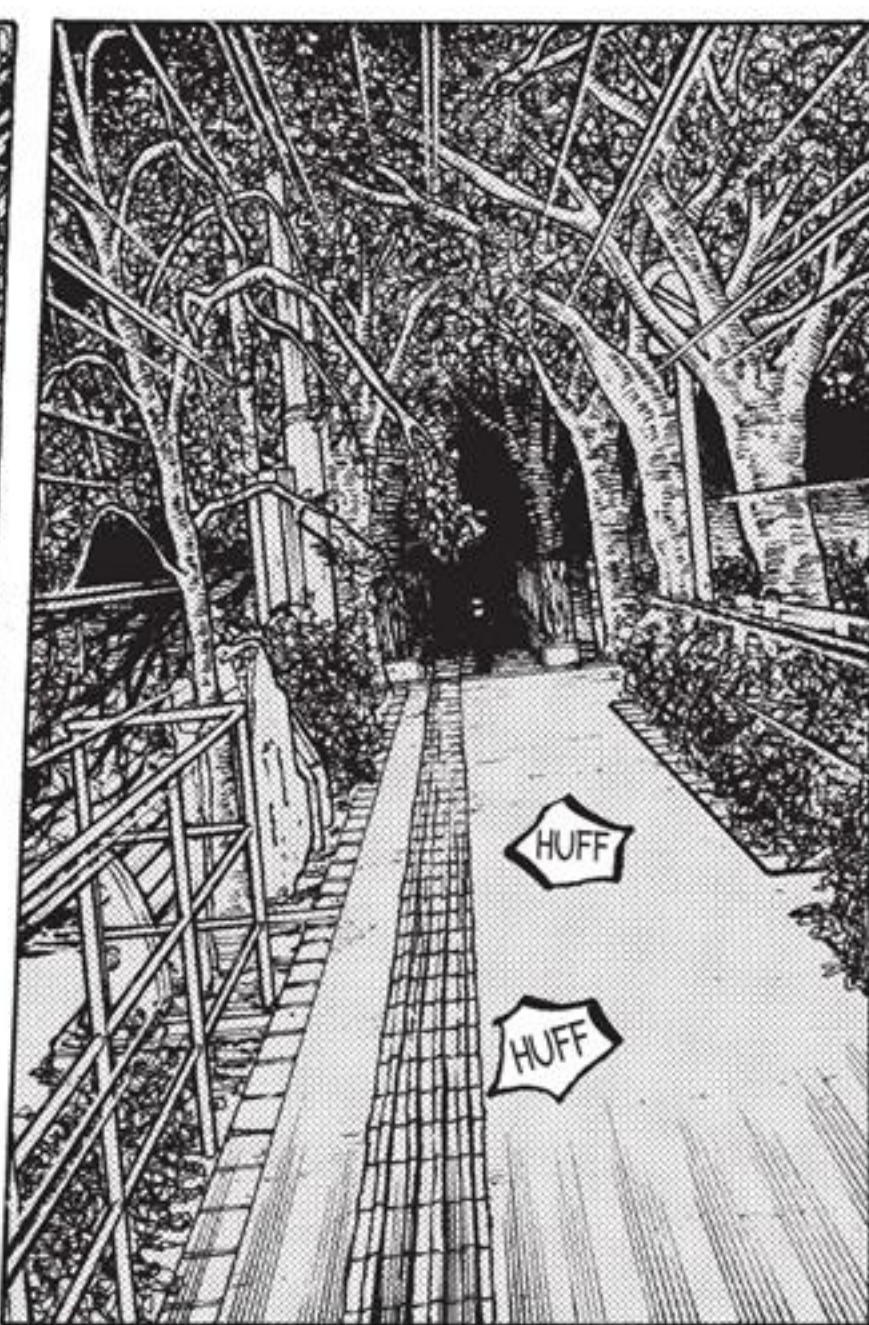
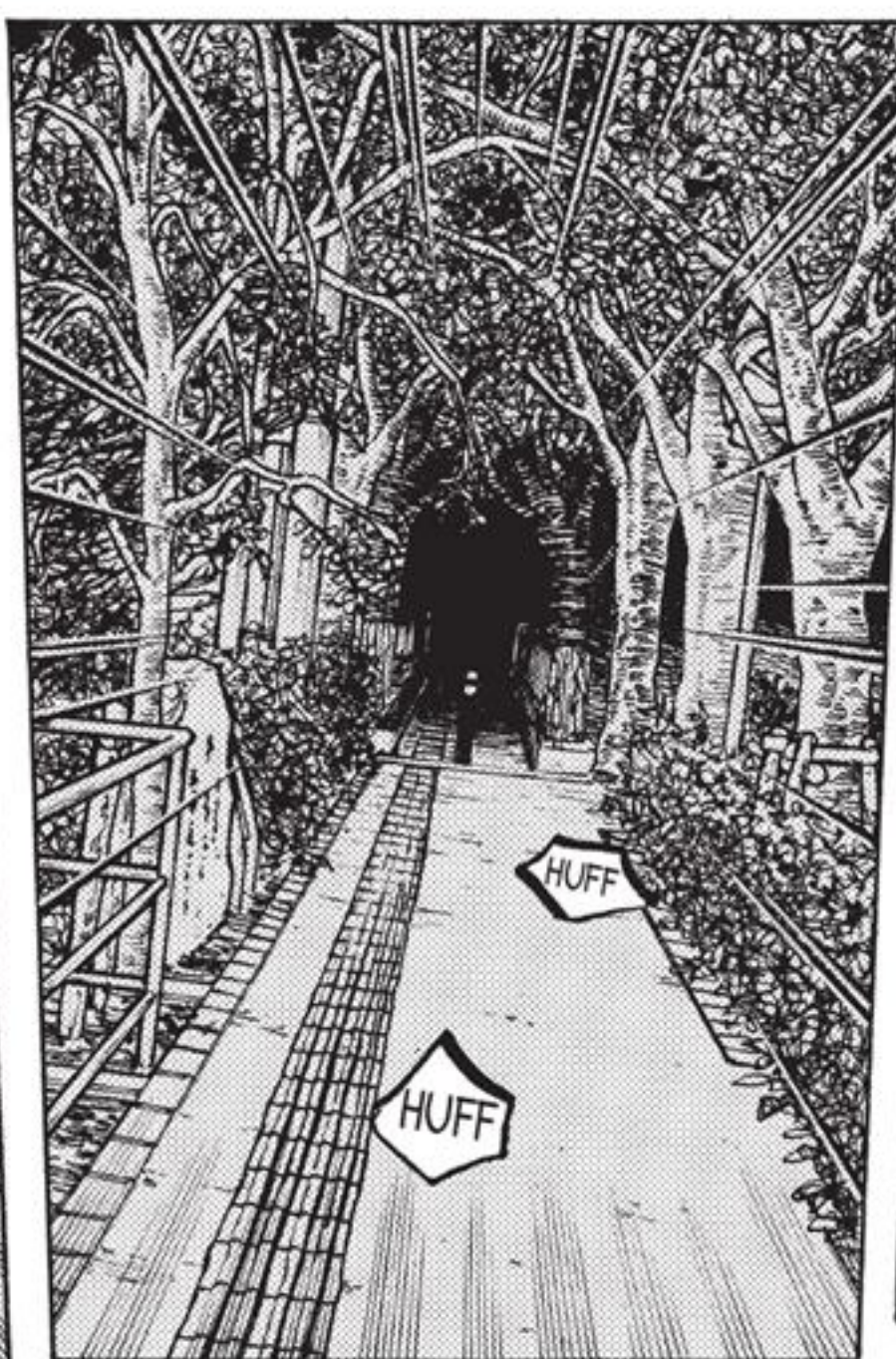
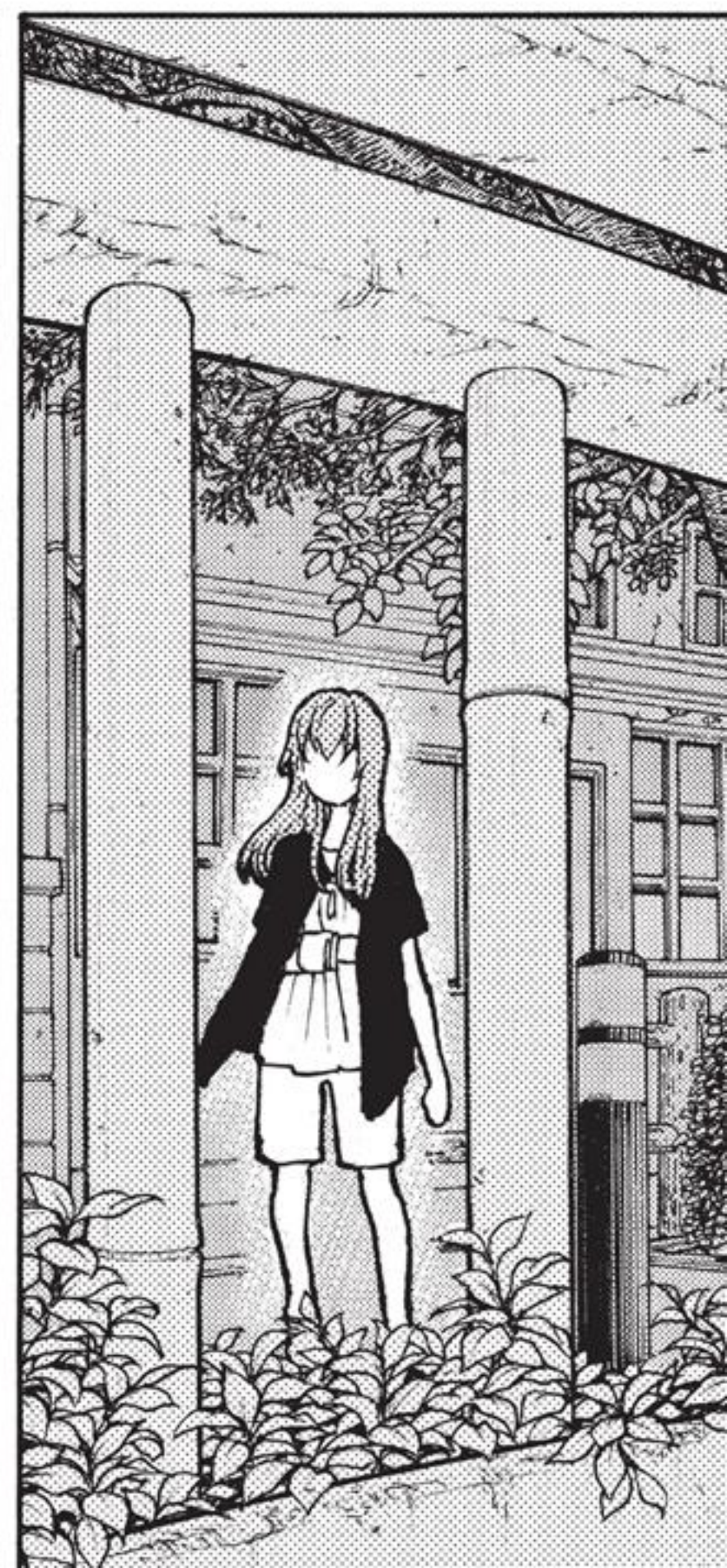
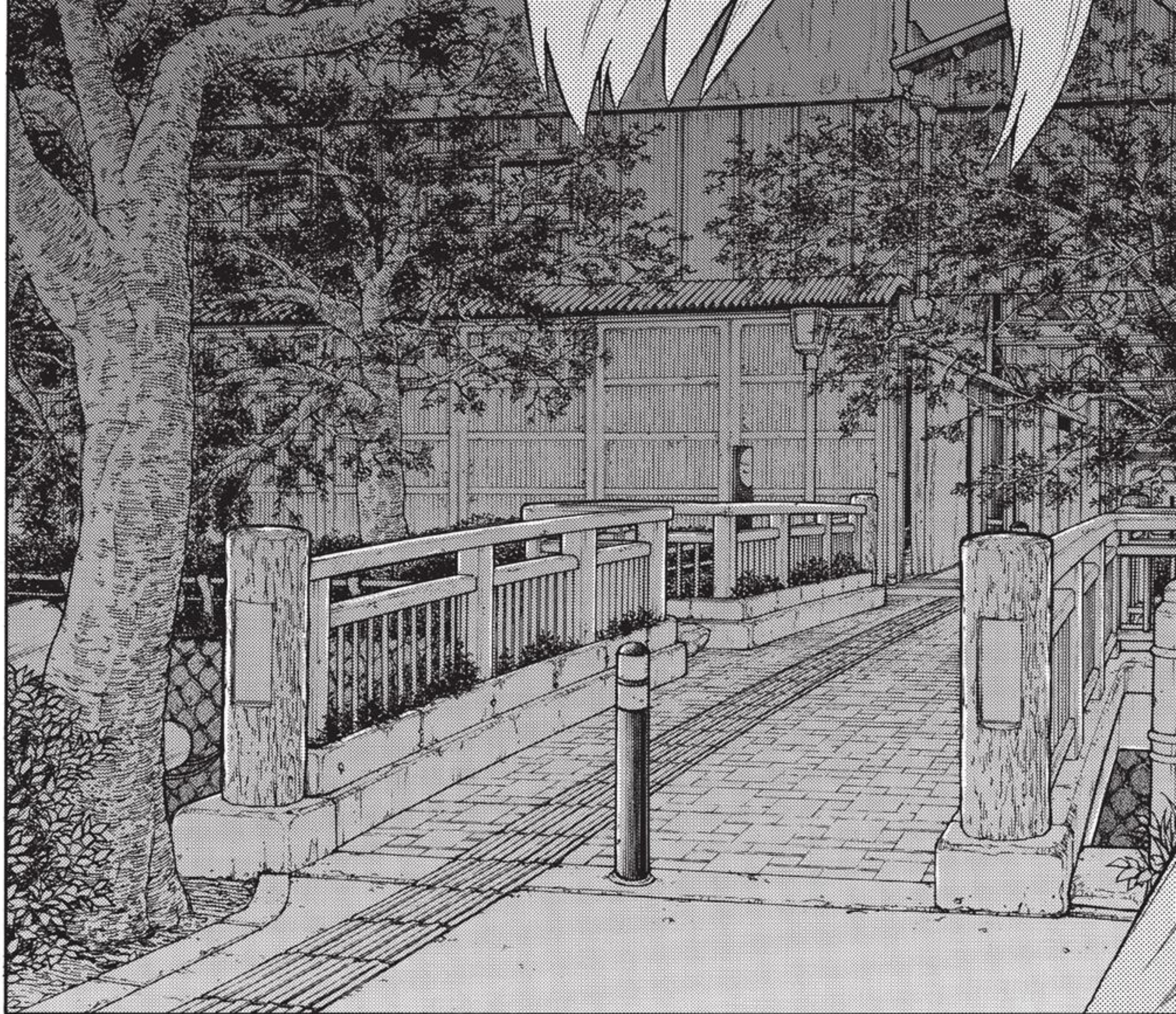


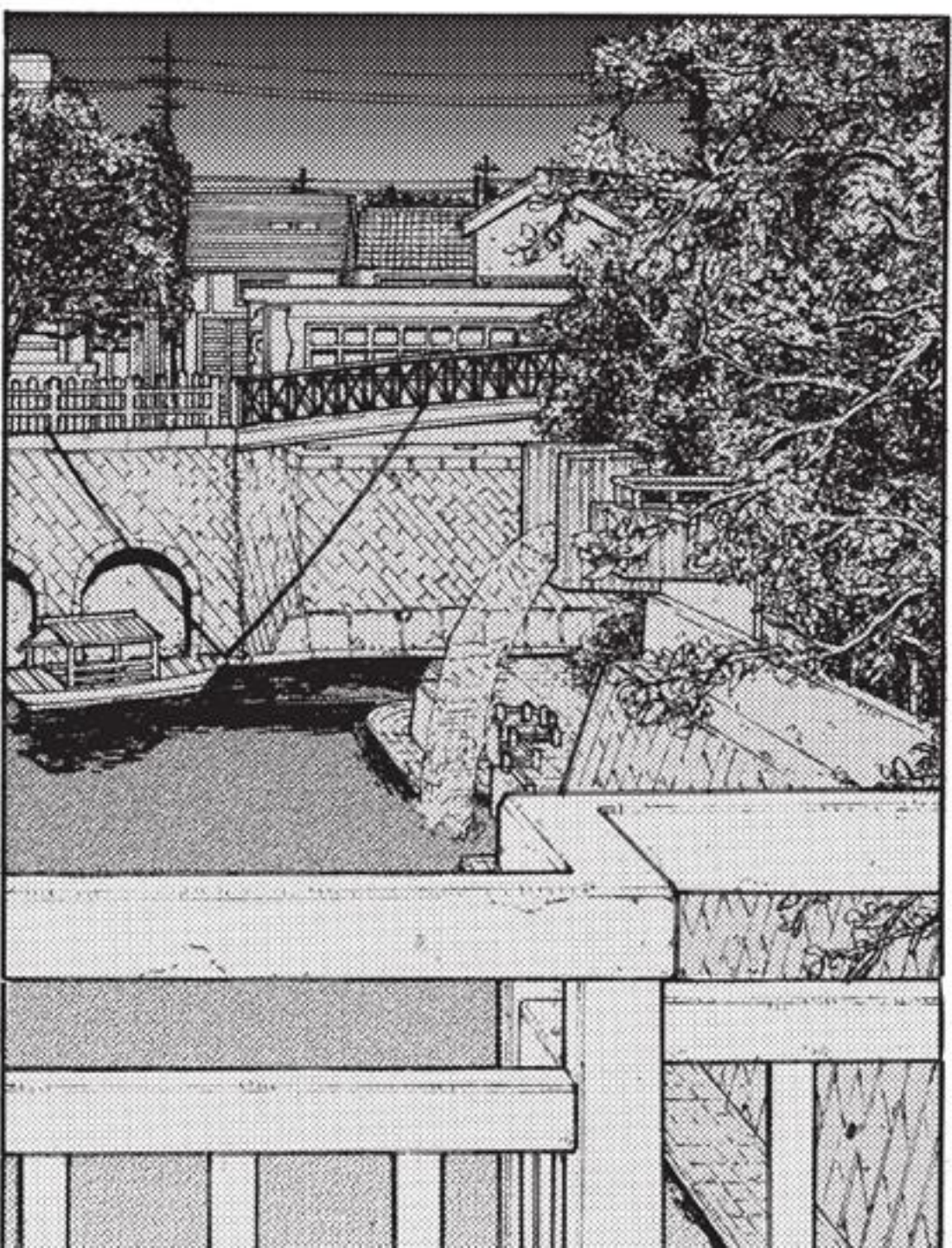
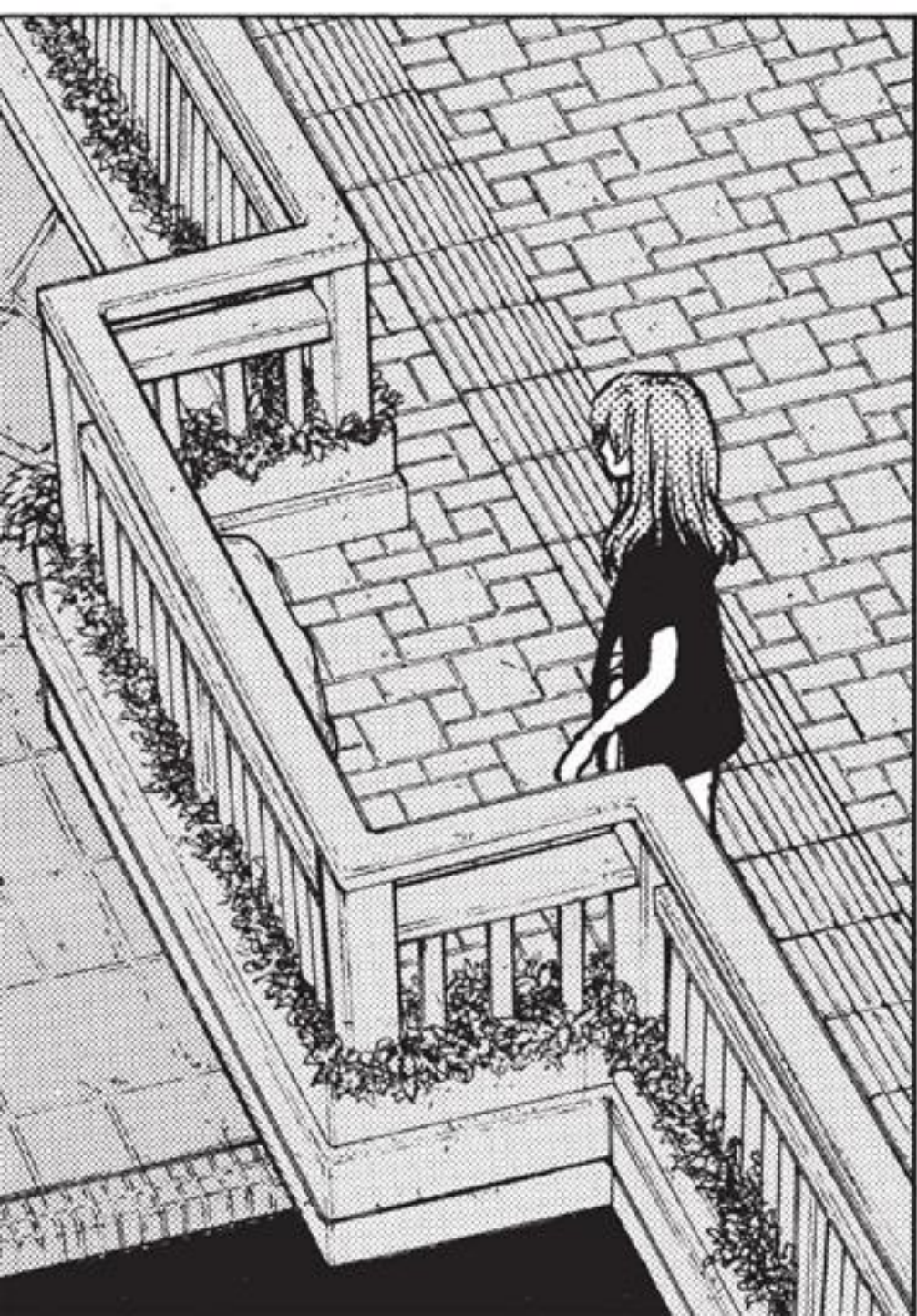
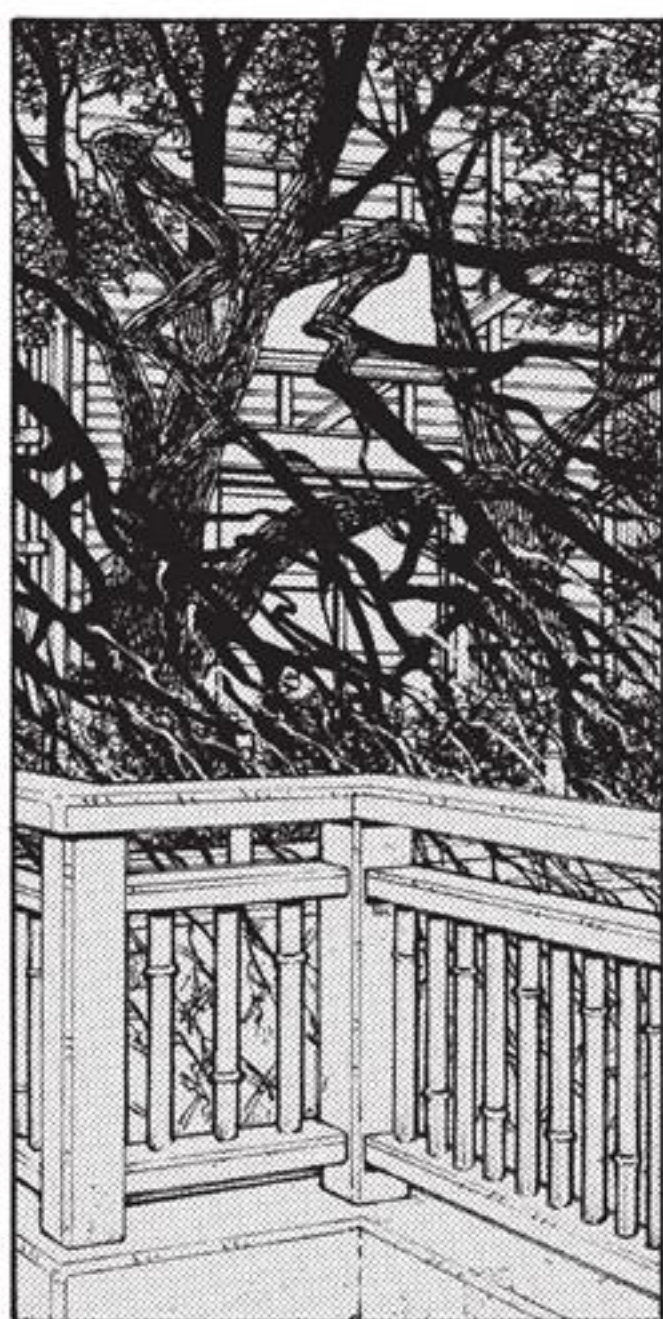
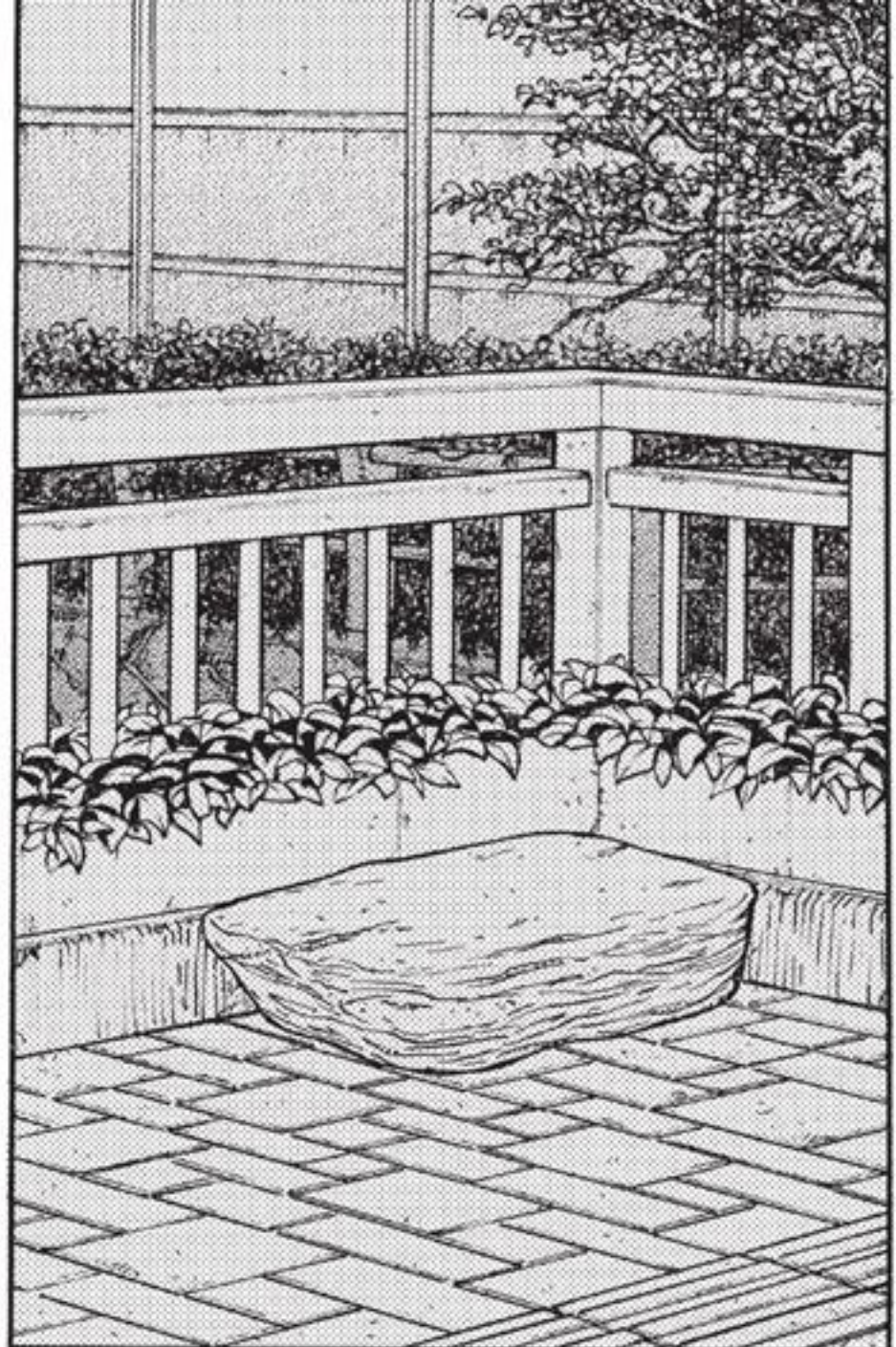
CHAPTER 52: SILENCE

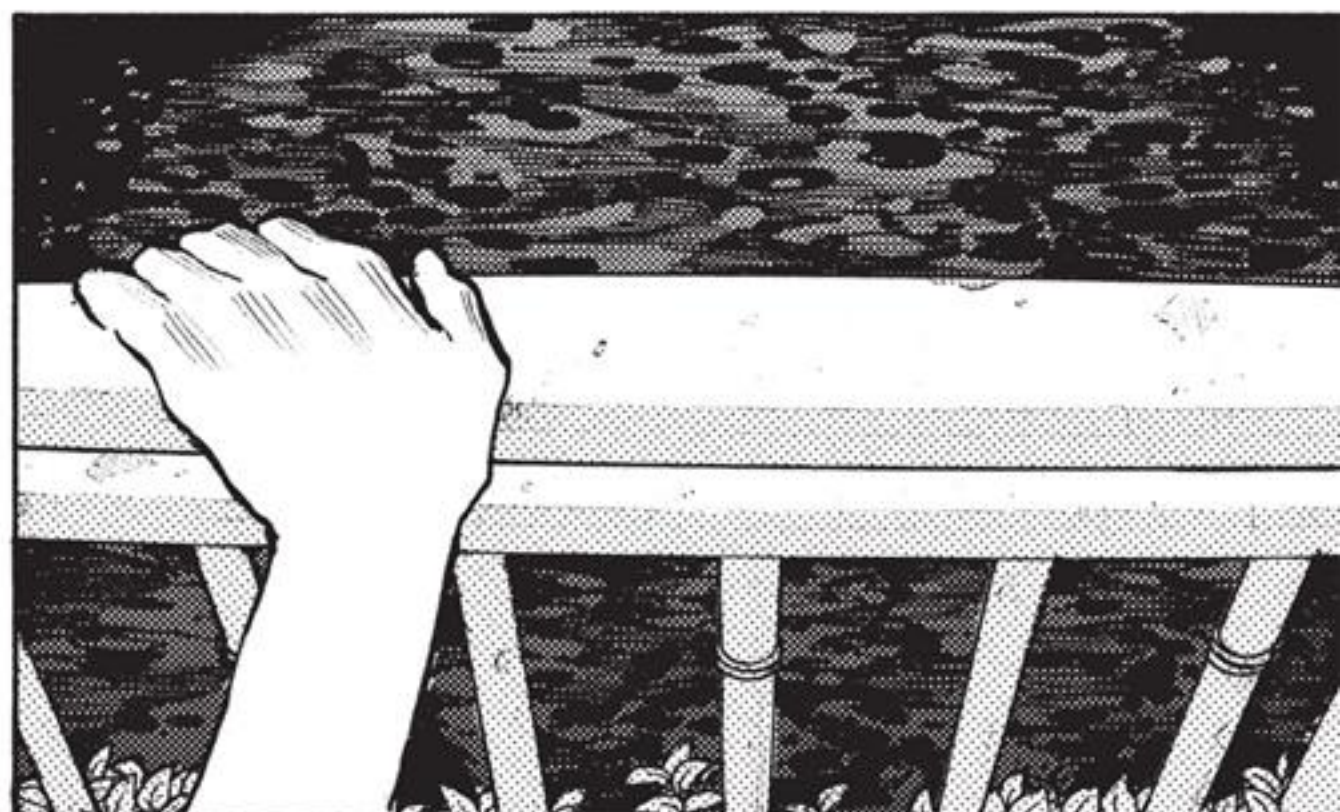
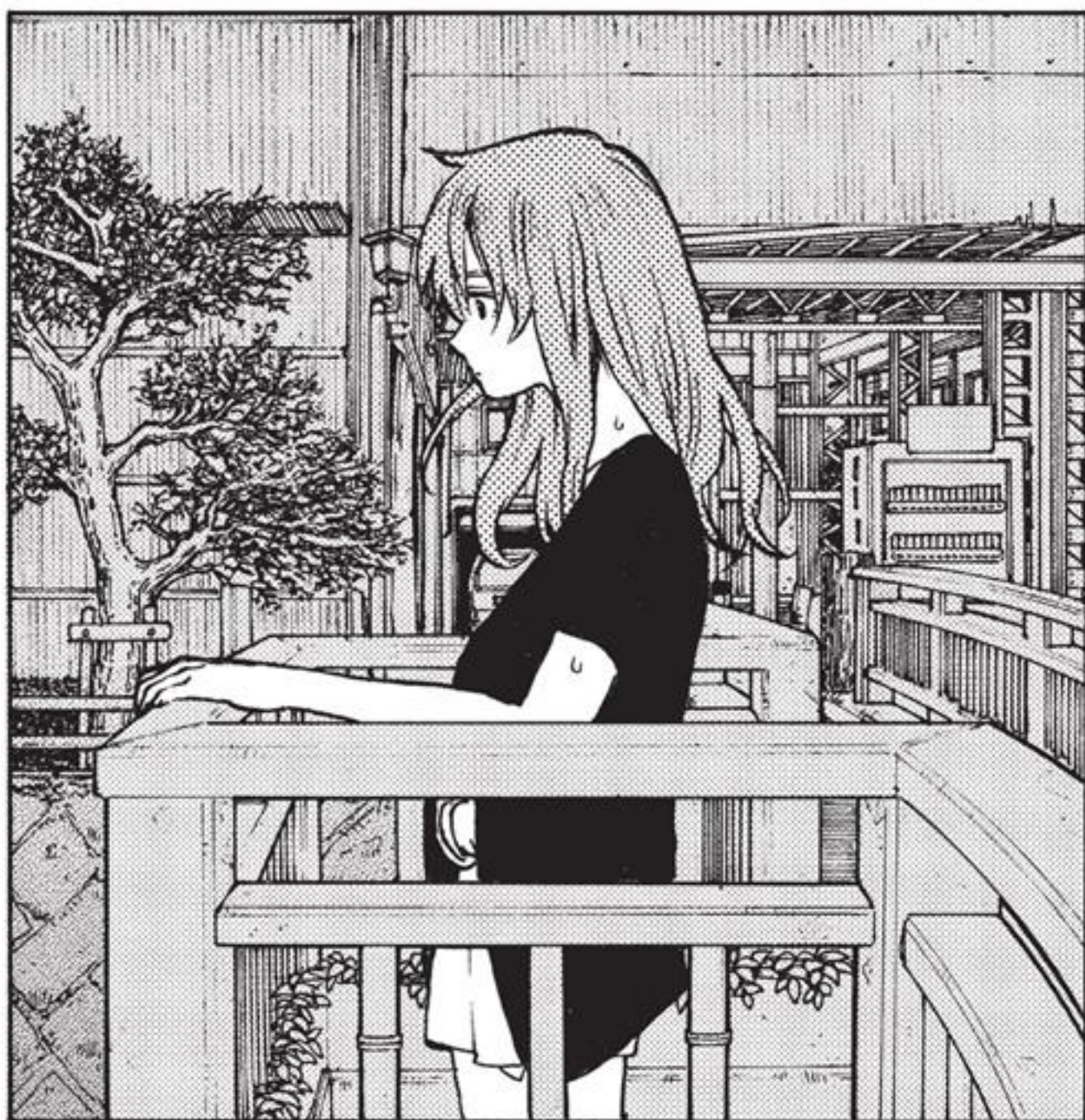
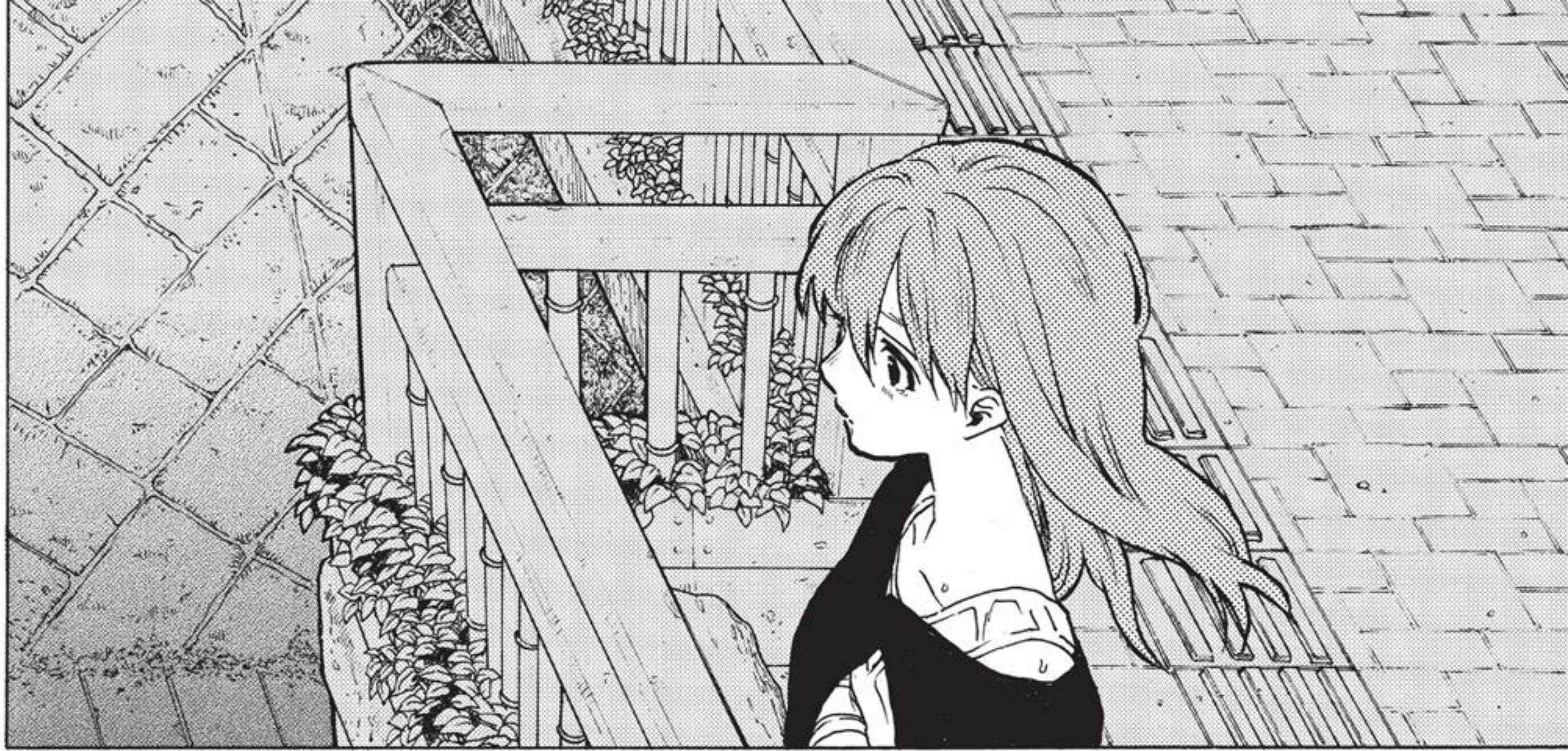


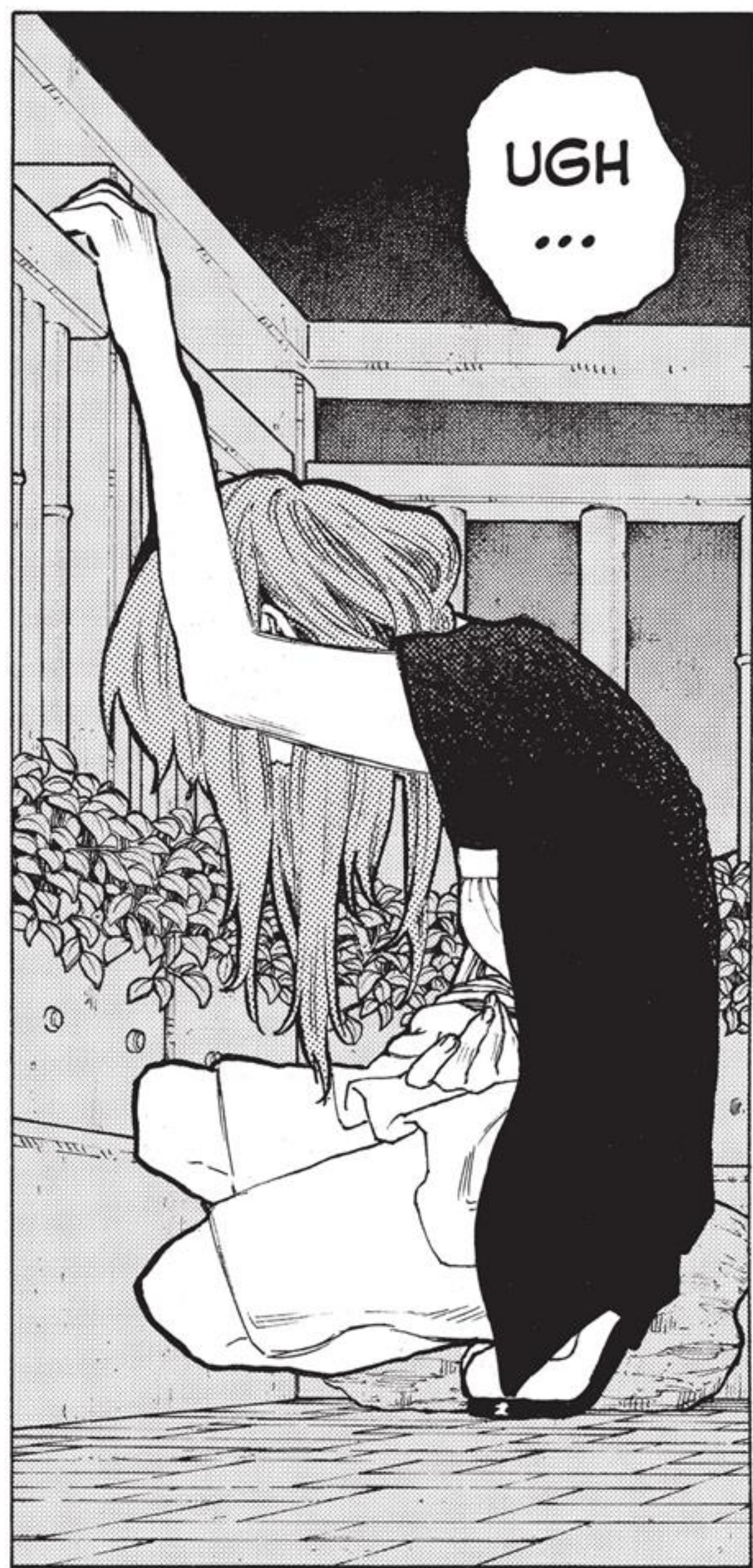






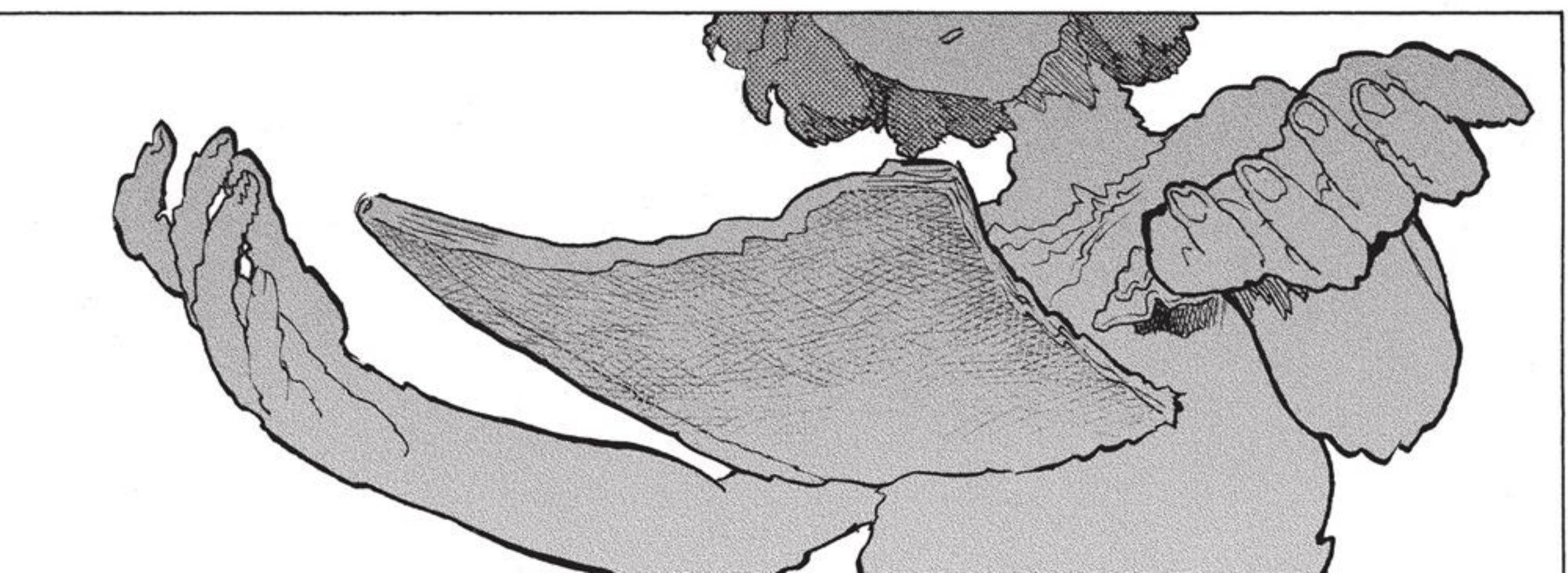


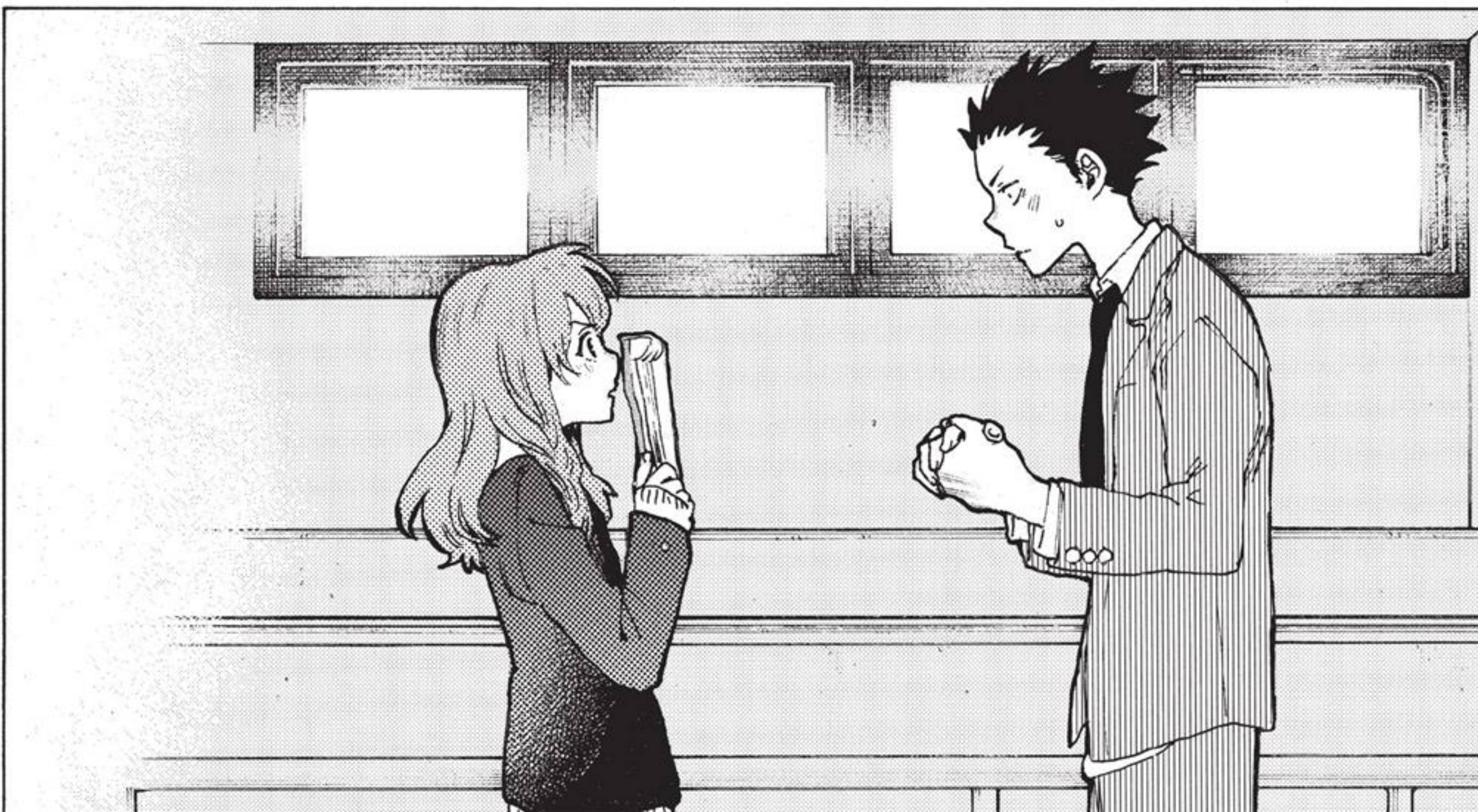
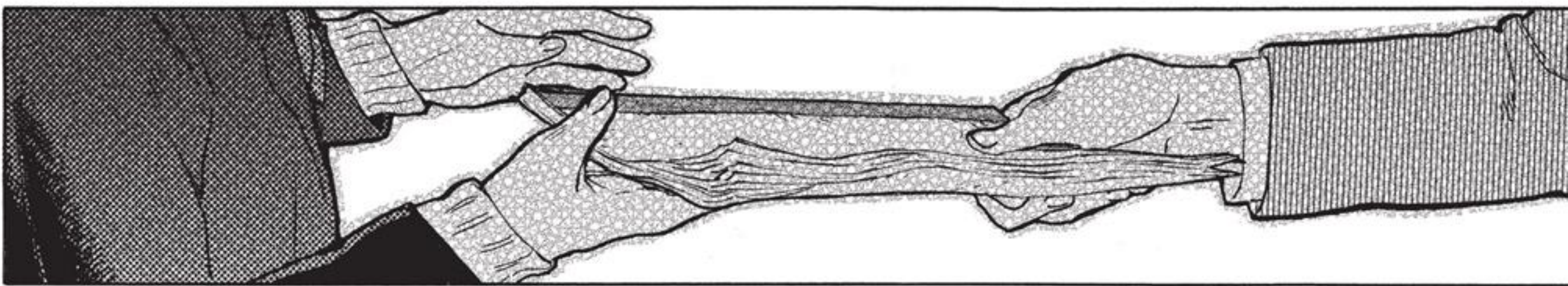
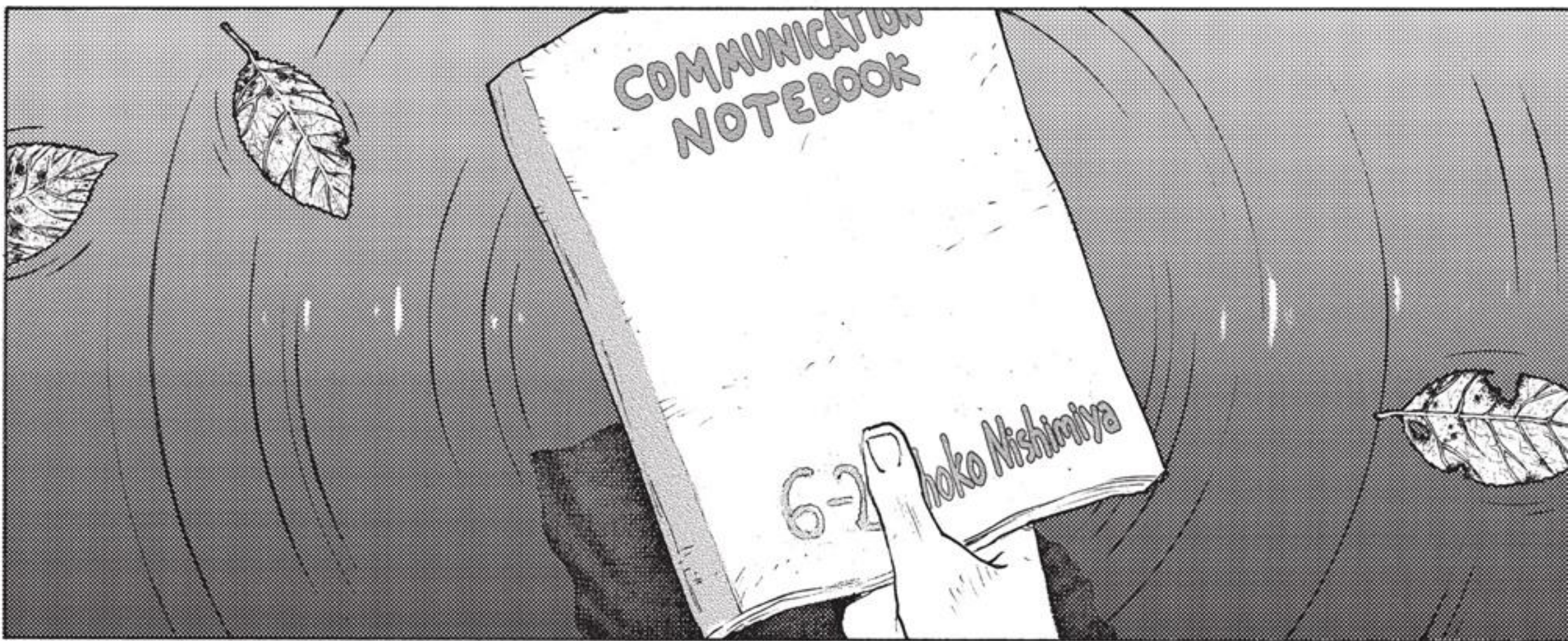


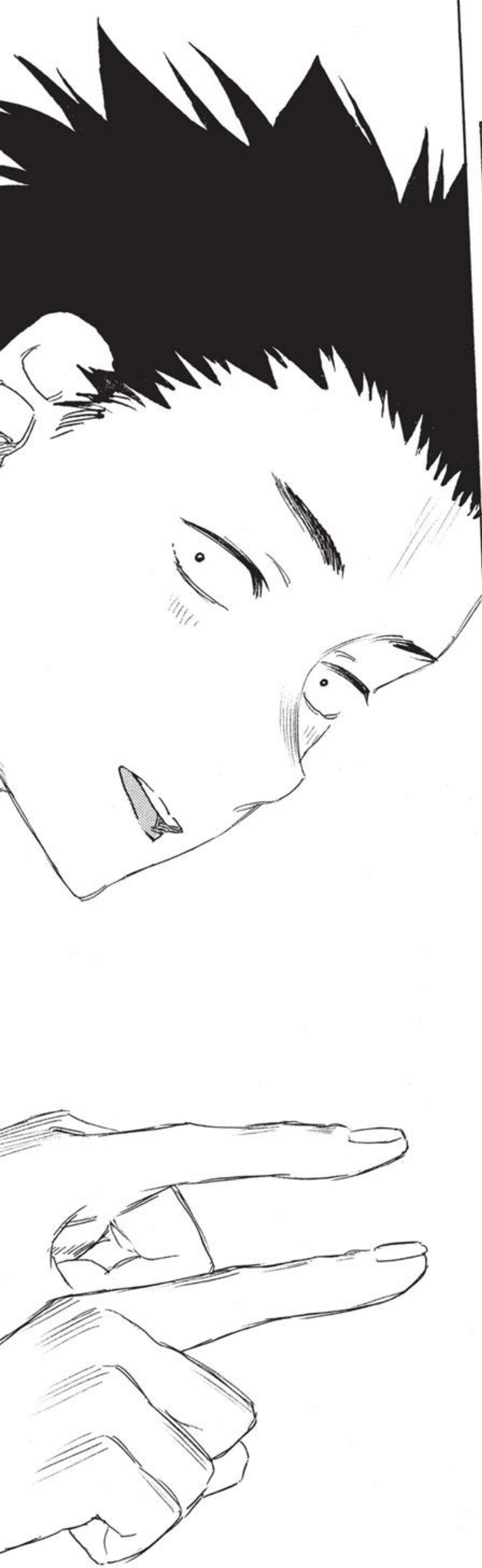


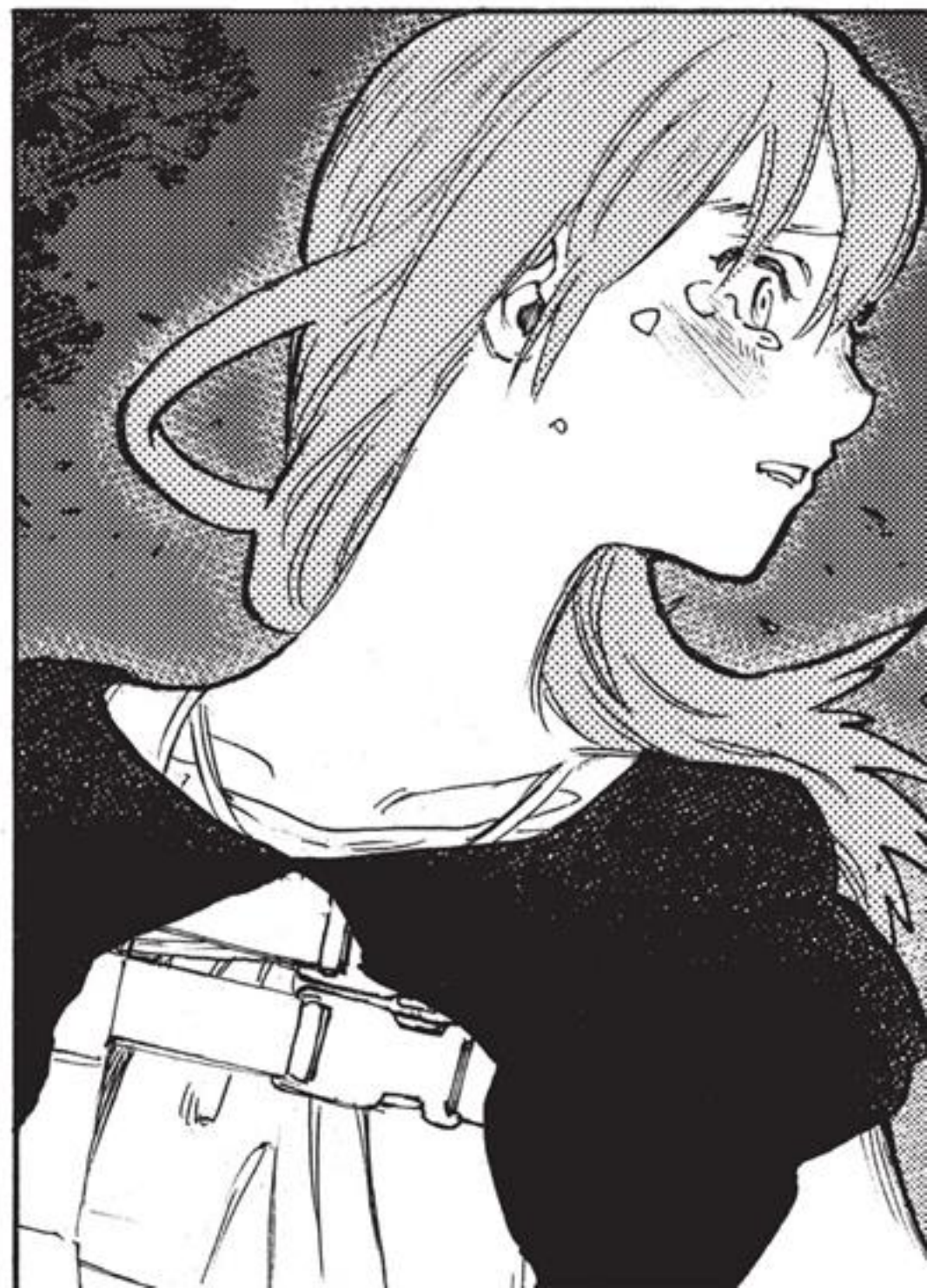
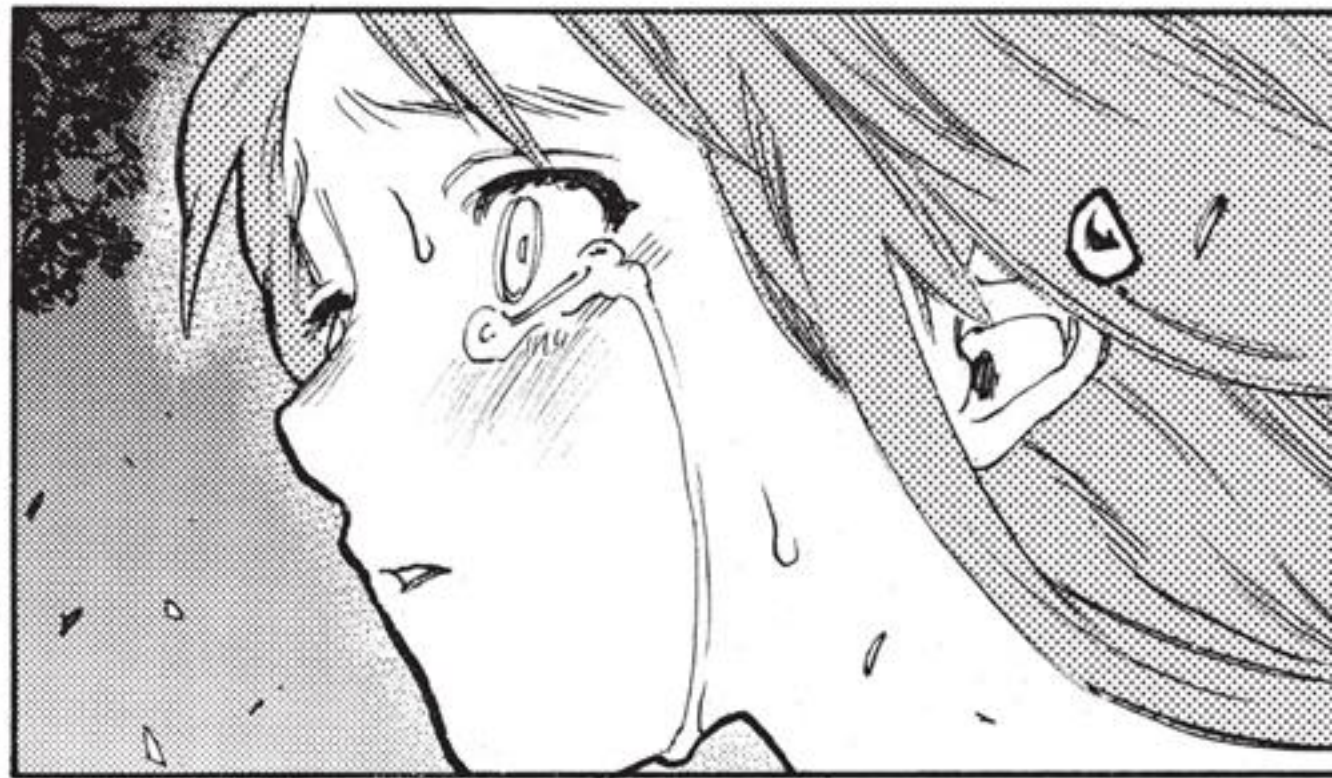
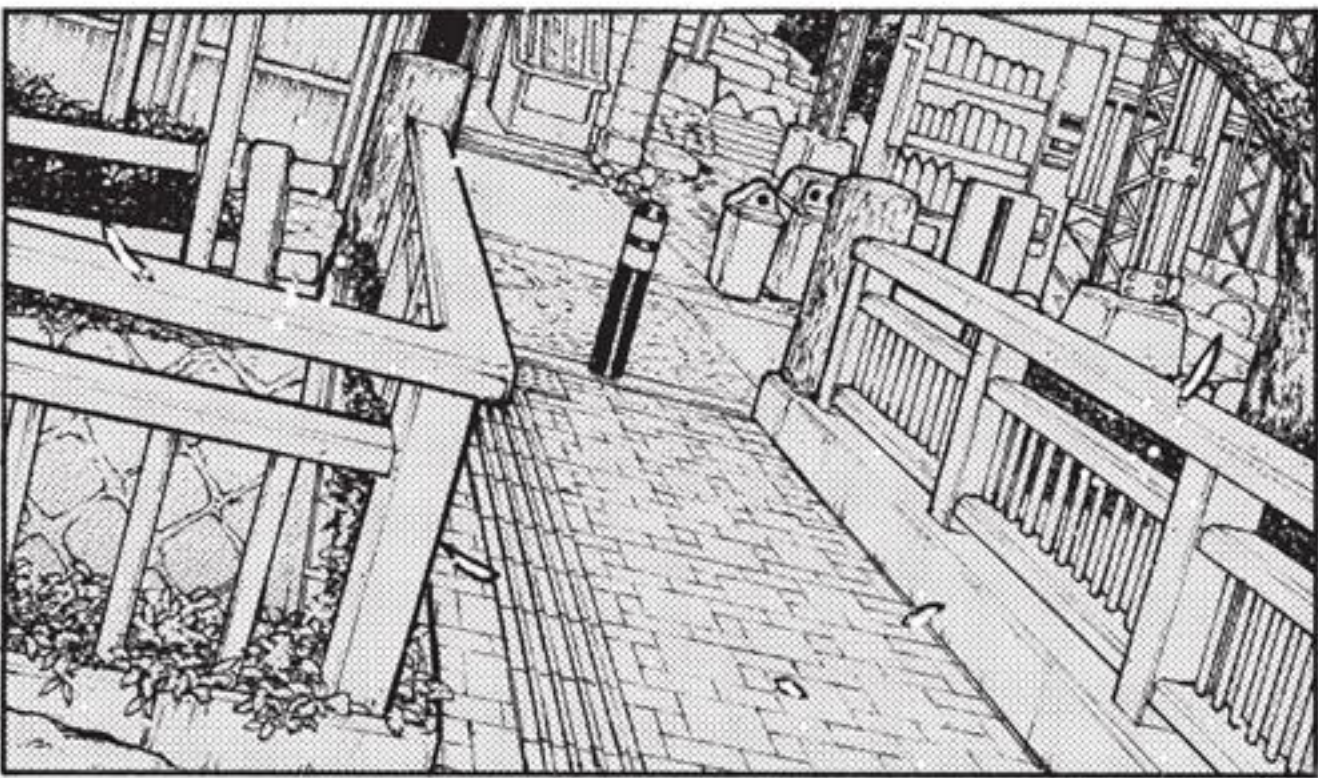


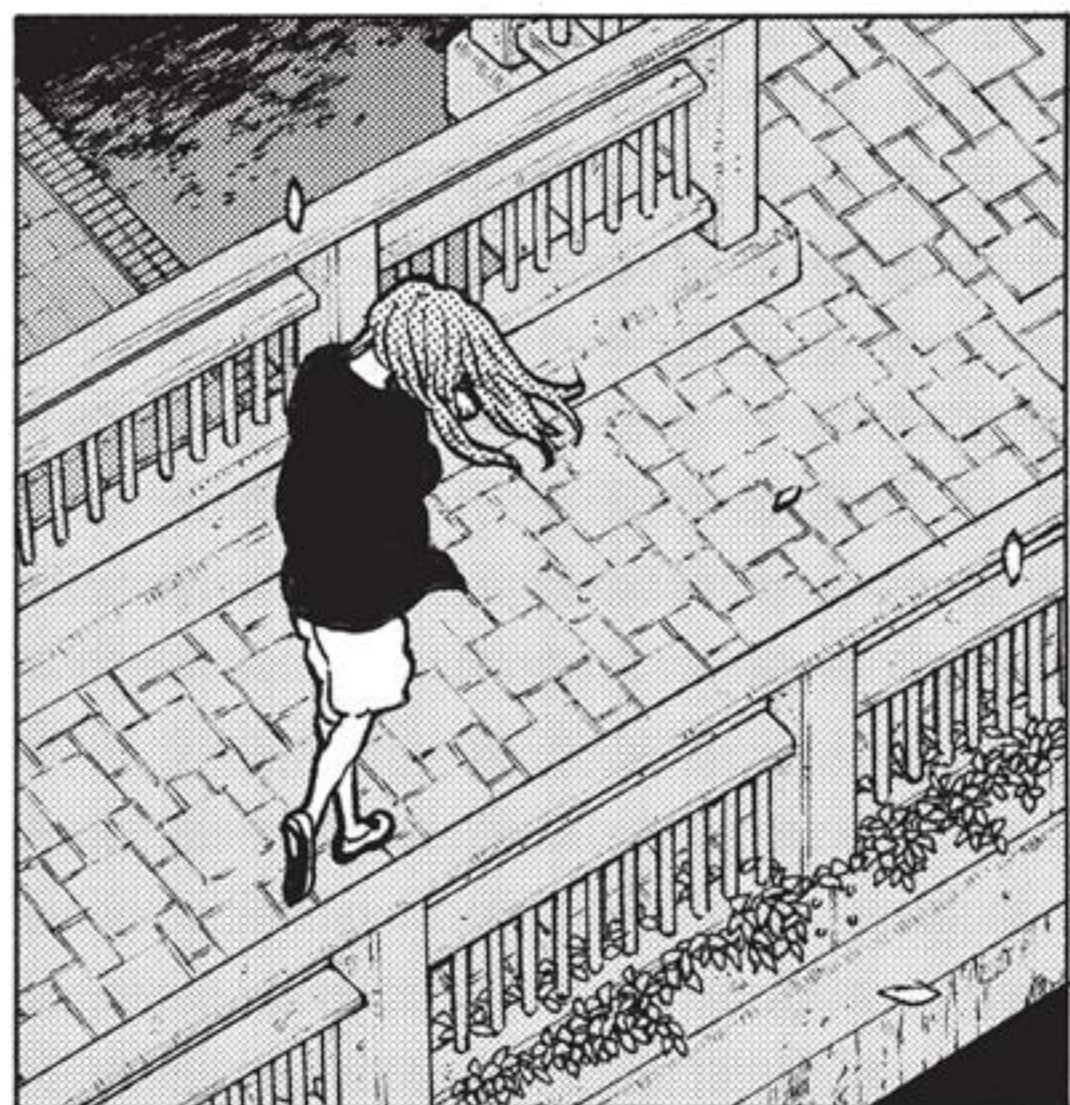
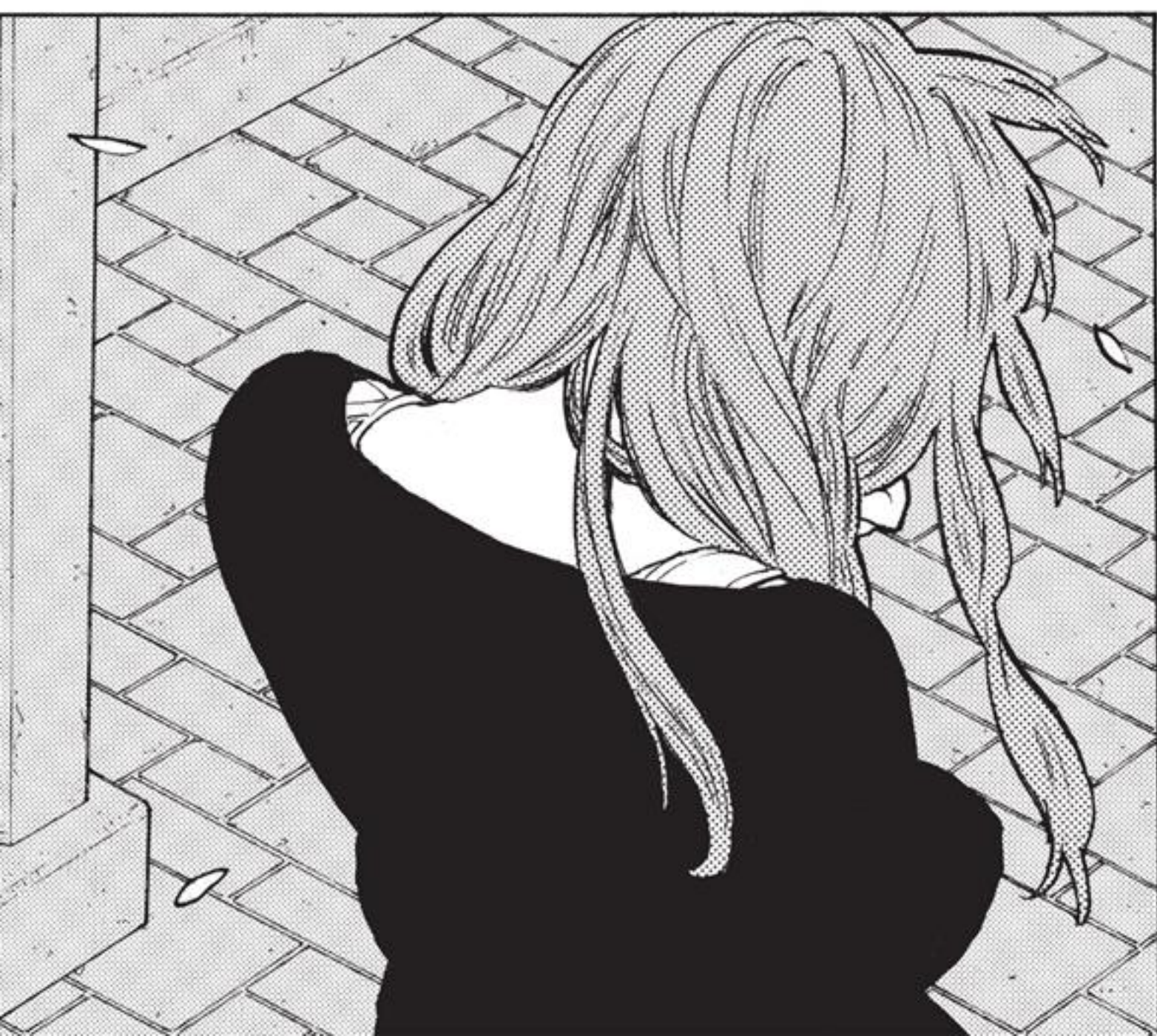
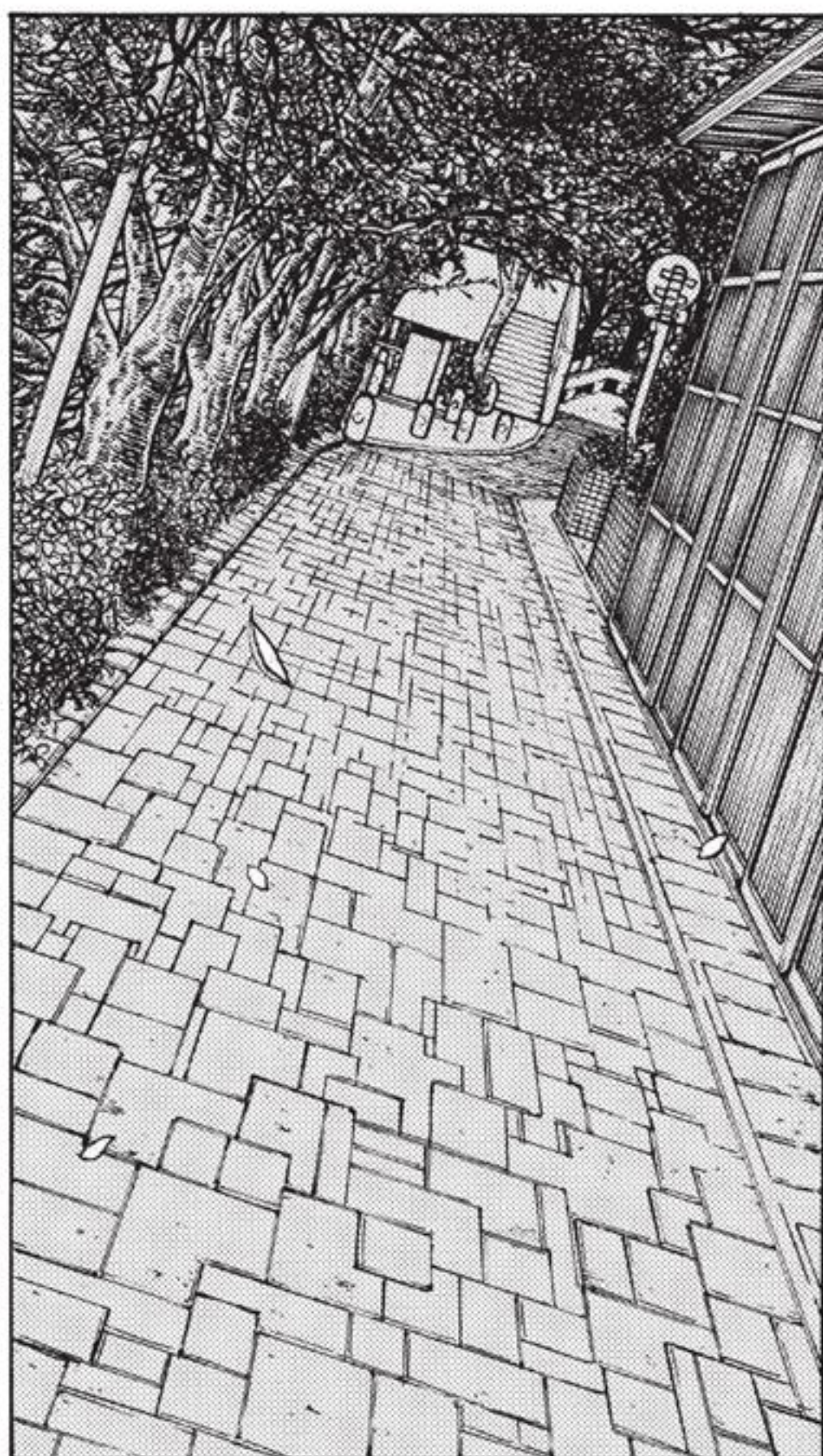
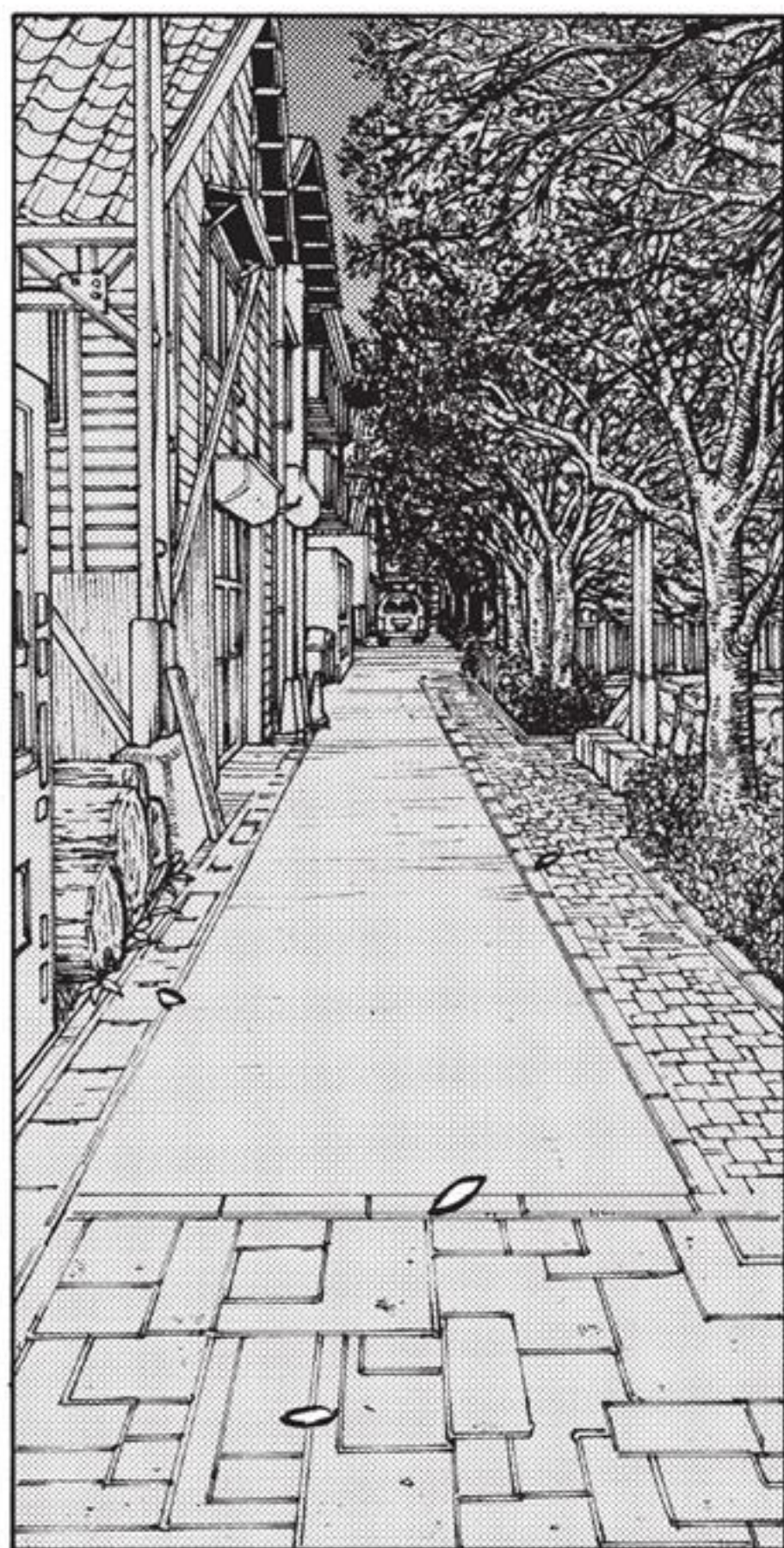
**"YOU
FORGOT
THIS."**

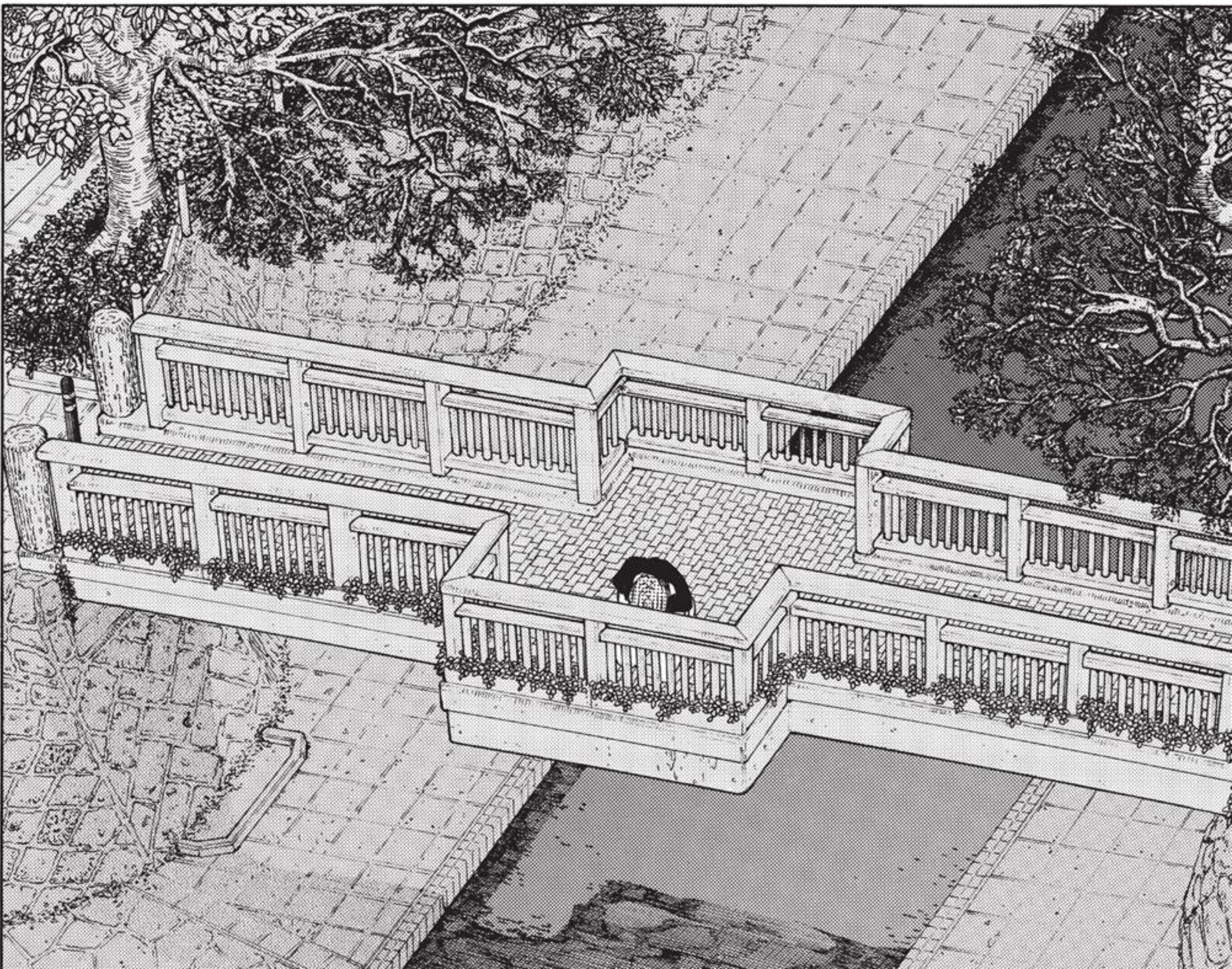


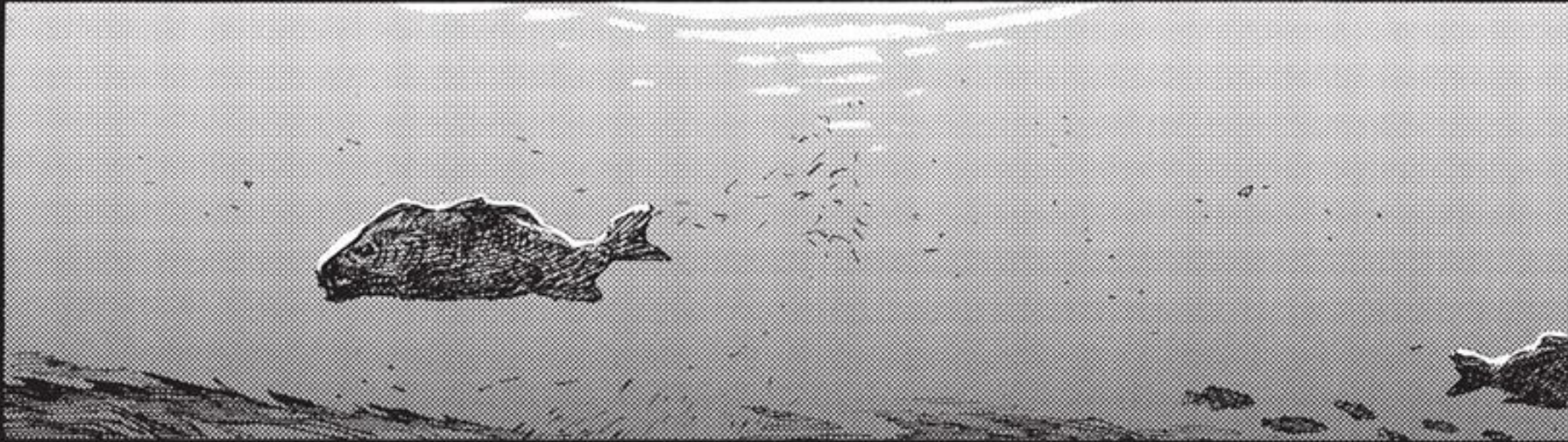
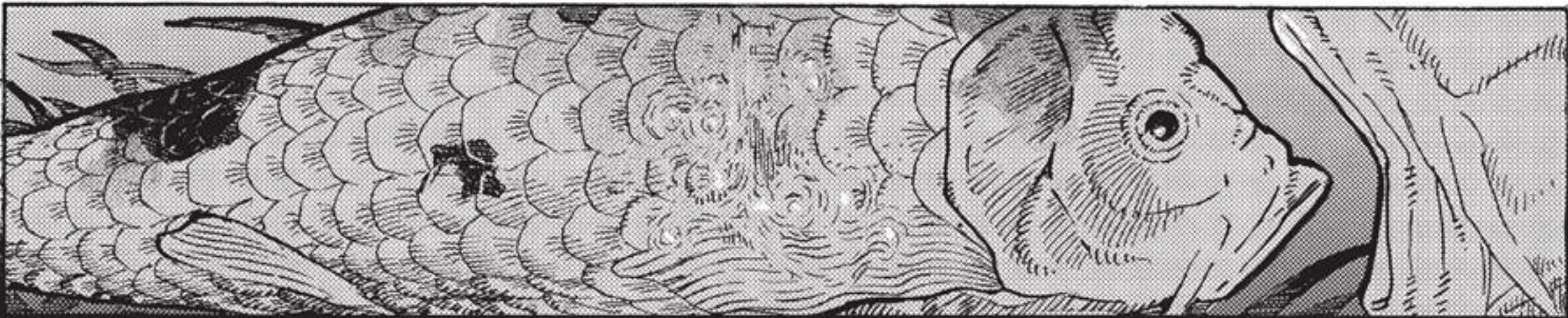
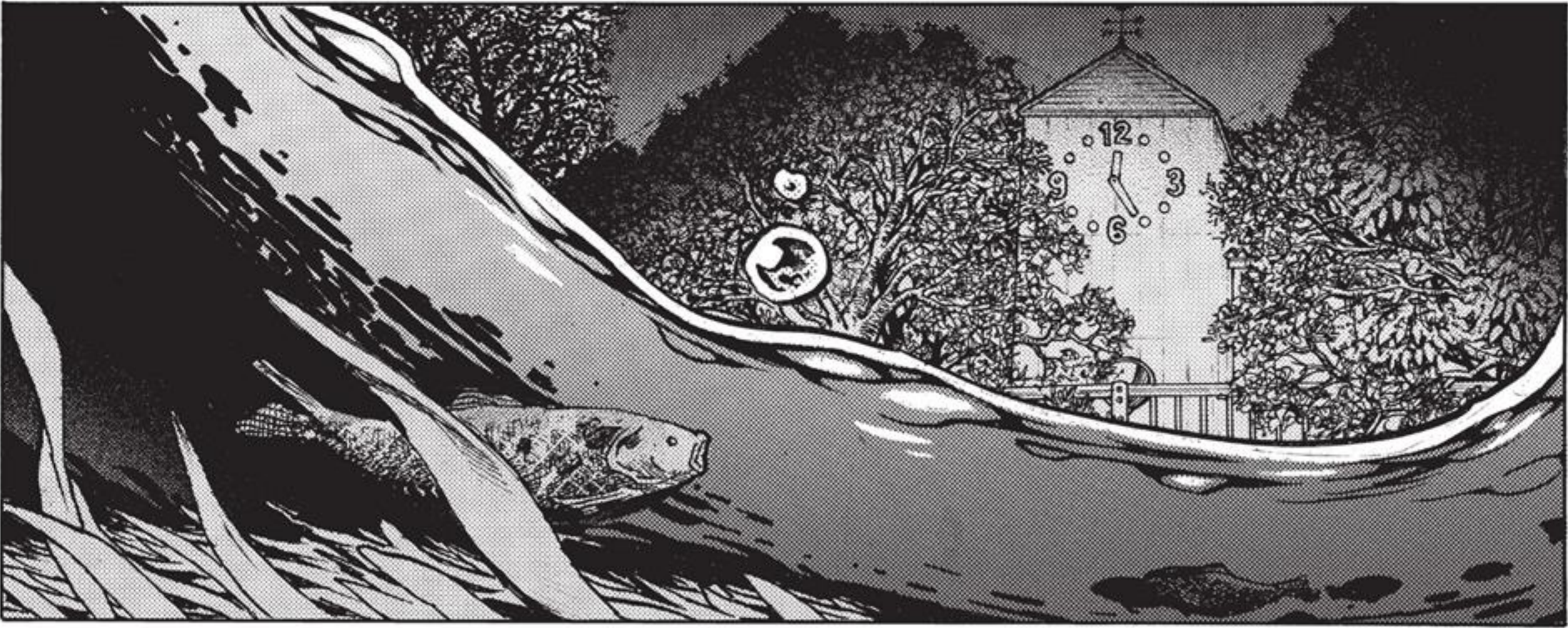


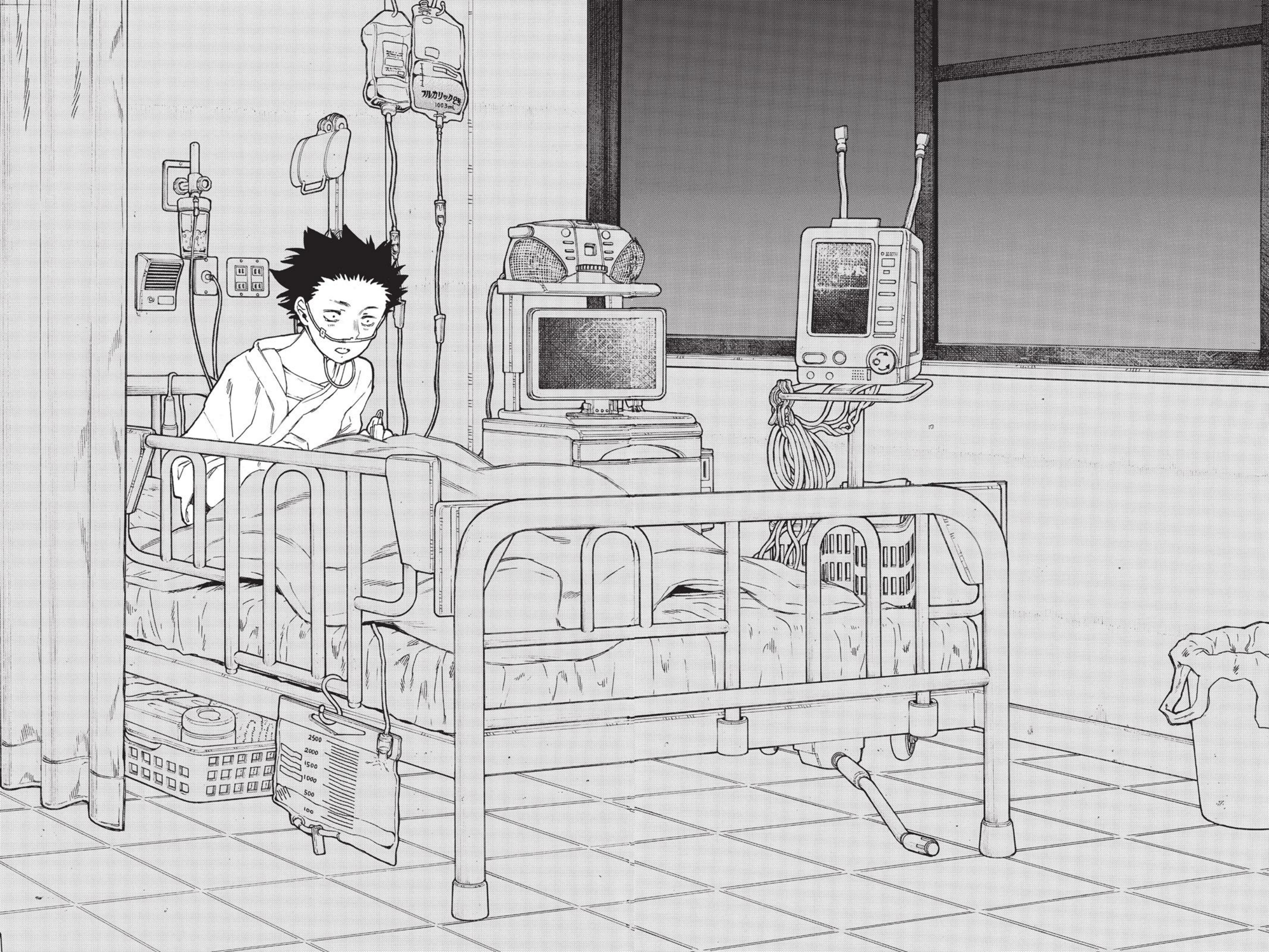


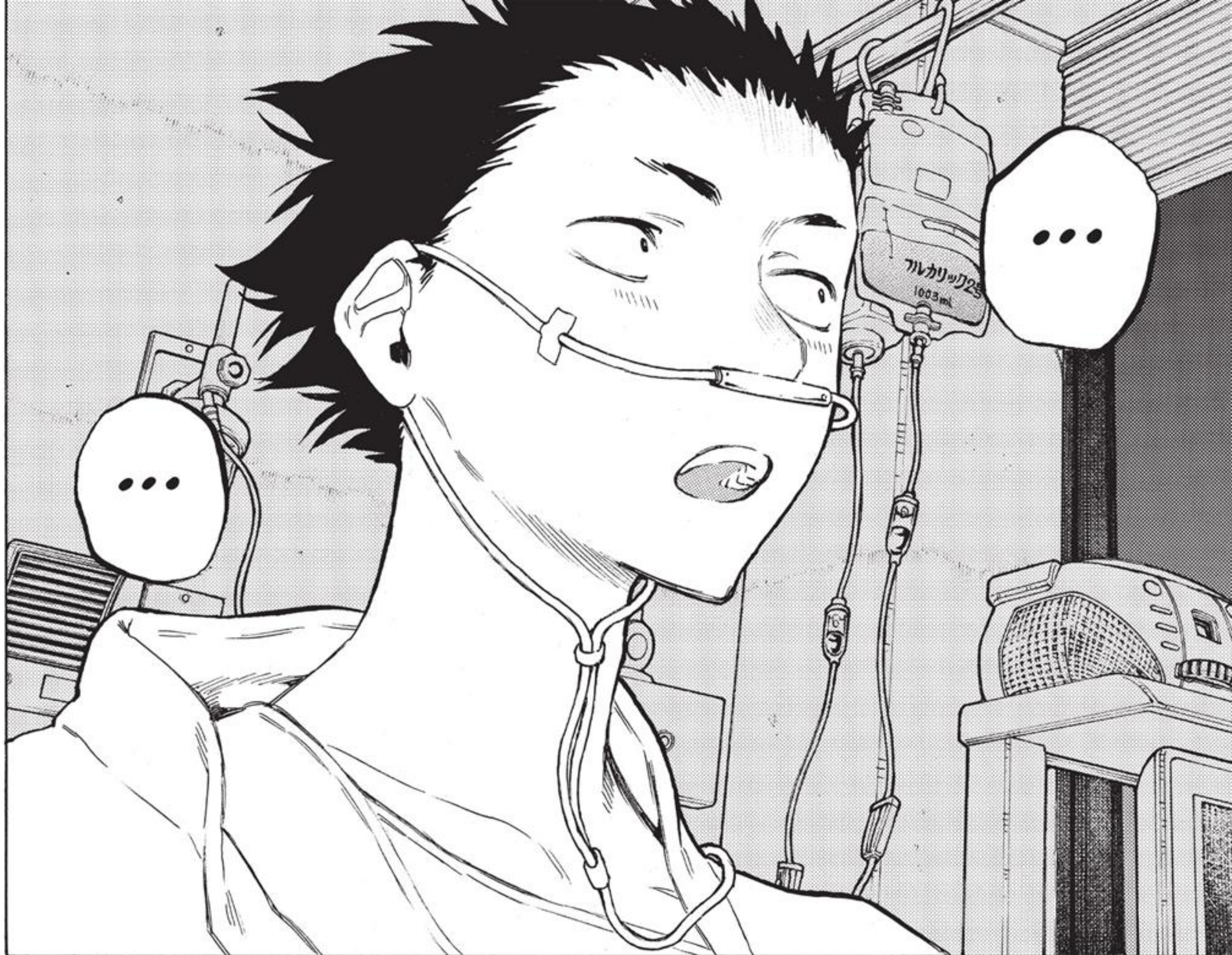












Continued in Vol. 7



a Silent Voice



Manga Author

Yoshitoki Oima

Actress

Kasumi Arimura

A Silent Voice Interview

*This interview first appeared in Weekly Shonen Magazine July 2014.

Kasumi Arimura, who is well-known for her role in the TV drama, *Ama-chan*, is in popular demand for TV dramas, movies, and commercials. She also happens to be a huge fan of shonen manga, a genre often geared towards young boys. When we asked her what she thought of *A Silent Voice*, she spoke to us intimately, regarding her own experiences.

We now bring you a special interview featuring both her and the author, Yoshitoki Oima.



We asked Ms. Arimura to read the second volume of *A Silent Voice* in preparation for this interview.

—To start, we would like to ask you about your thoughts on *A Silent Voice* as a whole.

Arimura: Can I speak frankly?

Oima: Of course.

Arimura: It was painful to read. The bully becomes the bullied, has insults written on his desk, and his schoolwork thrown around. I really felt the pain of seeing him trying to deal with both his classmates and his family and being unable to say who was at fault and who wasn't.

Oima: Thank you for saying that. I'm surprised at how closely you read it.

Arimura: I tried to think about how I would have behaved under the same circumstances. It may not have quite reached the level of "bullying," but that sort of thing did happen around me as well.

***"Even in real life, your turn to be bullied comes around."* –Arimura**

Oima: It happened to you as well?

Arimura: From elementary school to around junior high school, some kids would ignore me and talk about me behind my back. They'd tell me, "don't get so full of yourself!" And would gossip about me whenever I spoke to guys. But it wasn't all the time. They would do it on rotation according to their leader's whims...

Oima: Then your turn would come up.

Arimura: Exactly. The thing I noticed when reading *A Silent Voice* was that it featured a lot of very believable scenes. There were many scenes where I wasn't sure how I would have acted in the same situation. Is the story based on actual

experiences?

Oima: Yes, there is a certain truth at the root of it that I've witnessed myself. I fleshed out the story while recalling the atmosphere and feelings I had back then. However, in the story, I occasionally take things in more extreme directions, so it isn't 100% as it happened.

Arimura: Classmates pretending not to see and shifting targets depending on their own status in the class... That was so true to life it got me wondering.

***"I wanted to depict
the emotions behind bullying,
and how they change."***

–Oima

Oima: Which characters did you like and dislike while reading the comic?

Arimura: I liked the new friend, Tomohiro, who appeared in the second volume. He gives a great answer when asked about the definition of friendship. I feel like life is so much better when



there's at least one optimistic person like that around you.

Oima: Was there a character you couldn't stand?

Arimura: The ones that bother me are Shoya's former friends who turned their backs on him. I'd hate to think they stay that way once they grow up, too.

Oima: I am thinking of eventually drawing these characters in their current, more grown-up state. I feel like I have to portray the changes in emotions for everyone surrounding this one incident of bullying.

Arimura: No matter what happens to her, Shoko doesn't get mad, does she? When someone does something mean to her, she is the one who still reaches out to the bully. Seeing her do that pains my heart...

Oima: She's a little mysterious, isn't she?

Arimura: Heheheh. She is. Very mysterious. She's very upfront and doesn't get worked up, which I think is so cool, but I wonder what she's really thinking. I know this is selfish, but I hope Shoko won't get mad over little things in future volumes...

***"I can sense Shoko's kindness through her expressions."* –Arimura**

Arimura: But I bet that since she doesn't get mad often, when she does, you can tell just how serious she is.

Oima: (Nods)

Arimura: I never had it as bad as she did, but as someone who has been in a similar situation, I can really sympathize with the way her kindness creeps into her eyes or the corners of her mouth. It made me think, "Yeah, some things do make you make that expression," you know? It made me want to portray Shoko Nishimiya someday.

Oima: Thank you so much. When you read so deeply into my work, I actually get so embarrassed. (Laughs)

—Come to think of it, you'll be appearing in the TV drama based on the manga, *Shitsuren Chocolatier* (*Heartbroken Chocolatier*).

Arimura: Since it's based on a prior work, I'll be trying not to stray too far from the "taste" of the original work in my performance. Naturally, this work has its fans and a creator, so I don't want to betray their expectations.

Oima: That is one of the difficulties in works based on something else. You can't help but compare them to the original.

Arimura: Even if you try to come up with a plan for your performance beforehand based on the script and original work, you can show up on set and it's not quite what

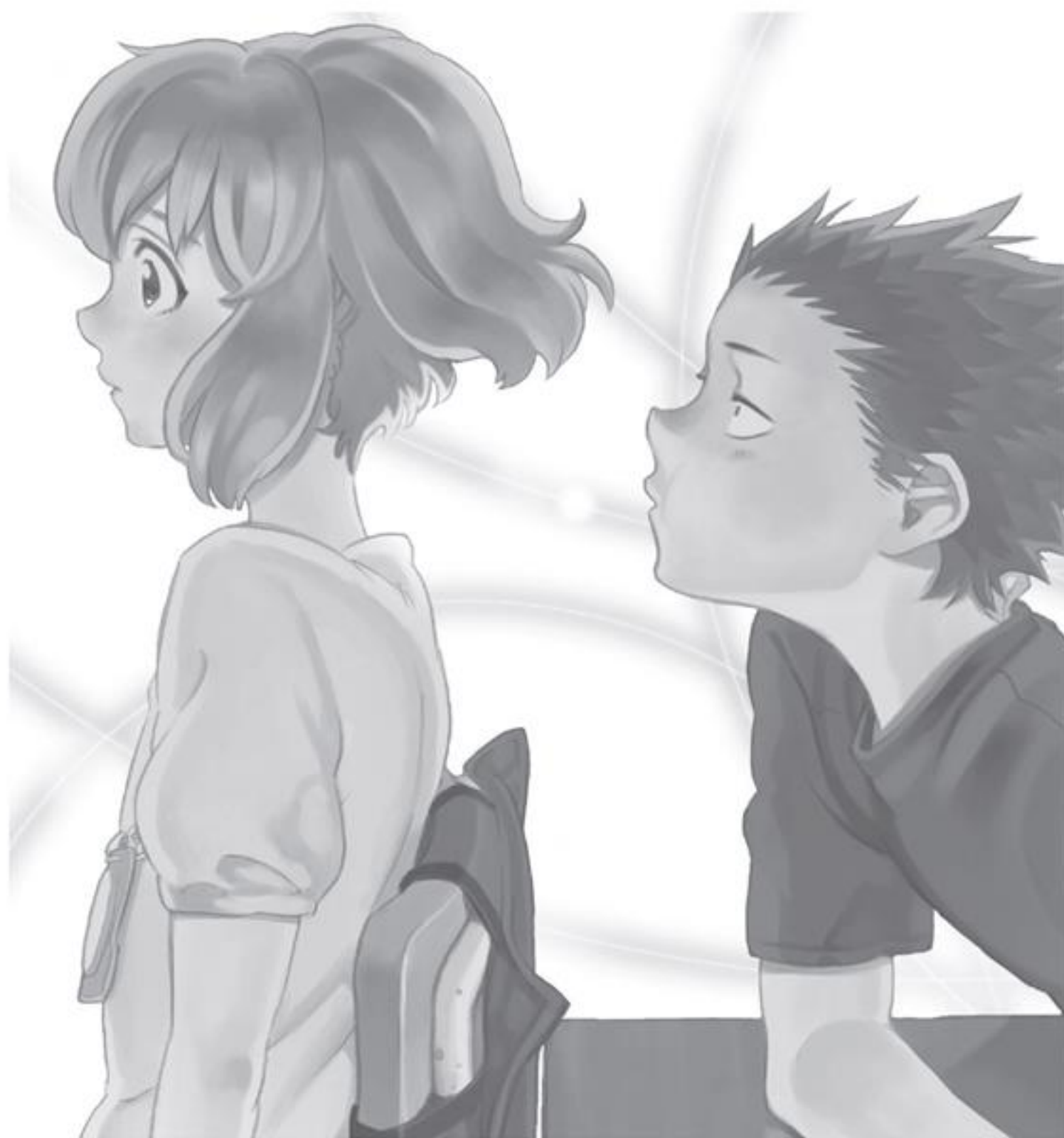
you had imagined or maybe the other actors' performances aren't what you saw in your head. When that happens, I try to prioritize what's happening on set.

Oima: I think I know what you mean. If something feels wrong when moving from the storyboarding to the inking phase, I'll rewrite or redraw things based on that.

—**A Silent Voice was remade from what was first published as a one-shot (a single-issue comic). Afterwards, it was redrawn again so it was fit for serialization (a story published in chapters).**

Oima: It was difficult work, but I think it allowed me to start serialization with the story in its best possible form. And it's all thanks to the readers who supported me back when it was a one-shot. I was defiant and was able to draw it just how I wanted.

Arimura: Perhaps in performing a work, creating a work, and even in human relationships (which includes bullying), the most important thing is having a sensitive heart.



Kasumi Arimura

Born 1993. Well-known for her performances in dramas such as: *SPEC~First Blood* and *Ama-chan*. Her first photo collection *Shin-Kokyu (Deep Breaths)* is on sale now.

Photography: Maki Oe

Styling: Yumiko Segawa

Hair & Makeup: Izumi Omagari

Organization: Tatsuya Matsuura + Manami Shimakage (Baba Planning)

Design: Saya Takagi (Red Rooster)

A Silent Voice 6

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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